2023 Session Planner

Tips For Talking To Legislators

Plan ahead...
* Learn about your legislator. Google them. Call Maria. Ask a colleague. Try to go into your meeting with some knowledge of your legislator.
* Think about your ask and what you need from the conversation.

When calling/visiting...
* Introduce yourself and share a little about who you are. Ask them about themselves. You often find that you know the same people or have the same interests. Make sure they know you are a member of the LSMS.
* If you don’t have a specific bill to discuss, let them know you want to be a resource for them as legislation is filed. Tell them you understand there will be several scope bills and ask them not to commit to other groups without giving you the opportunity to follow up.
* Give them a way to contact you.

Remember...
* You are the subject matter expert when talking about Medicine. Adjust your terms accordingly. Using 14 syllable words is not a good idea for the non-medical legislator. Be specific and understandable.
* If you ask for a certain amount of time, stick to it. If you are having good conversations and you feel like that legislator may be willing to give you more time, mention that you know you asked for 15 minutes, but that you are certainly willing to continue the conversation now or to schedule more time when it’s convenient.

Make a copy of the planner to share with a peer physician
Register for White Coat Wednesday (visit lsms.org)
Look up my legislators (visit legis.la.gov)
Follow LSMS on Twitter and other platforms @LaMedSoc
Verify that I receive Capitol Canary alerts and my information is correct (visit lsms.org)
Call/e-mail my legislators using the talking points below
Share with LSMS staff as I learn new information
Add LSMS lobbyist Maria Bowen to my contacts: 225.939.7576 and mbowen@lsms.org

My legislators...
- At Home -
Senator _________________________________
(____)____-______; ____________@legis.la.gov
Representative ___________________________
(____)____-______; ____________@legis.la.gov
- At Work -
Senator______ ___________________________
(____)____-______; ____________@legis.la.gov
Representative ___________________________
(____)____-______; ____________@legis.la.gov

Dates to have
April 10, 2023
Session Convenes
May 17, 2023
White Coat Wednesday
June 18, 2022
Session Adjourns