How to Lobby Your Member of Congress

A Quick Tutorial
What is Lobbying?

What my friends think I do.
What my parents think I do.
What the other side says I do.
What society thinks I do.
What I think I do.
What I actually do.
Total Spent on Lobbying

- 2008 - $3,301,143,025
- 2009 - $3,502,502,343
- 2010 - $3,548,528,489
- 2011 - $3,327,164,936
- 2012 - $3,307,955,590
- 2013 - $3,209,612,081
"Congress shall make no law … abridging … the right of the people peaceably … to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

We the People

Article
Who Do You Lobby?

Key Players in a Congressional Office

- Chief of Staff/Legislative Director
- Legislative Assistant
- Press Secretary
- Scheduler
- Staff Assistant
- Caseworker
Profile of a Typical Hill Staffer
Importance of a Constituent - You Matter!

- Know your local Congressman
- Establish contact with the district office
- Remember: You’re the boss - they work for you
In Your Meetings

- Meetings are short
- Tee up the issue, then get your point across
- Use a fact-based message
- Use local statistics
Life Lessons

Who knows more about cancer than you?
Always have an “ASK”

Ask the Member to…

- Cosponsor a bill
- Sign a letter
- Speak on the Floor
- Contact CMS
Appropriate Follow Up

- Don’t panic if you leave your meeting without an answer to your ask
- Do follow up -- but don’t be a stalker!
- Best Methods: Emails and Phone Calls
How to Raise Awareness

- Consider writing an Op-Ed article in your local paper
- Ask your friends and families to get involved
How a Bill *Really* Becomes a Law

- Vast majority of the work occurs in Committees

- Key Committees with healthcare jurisdiction include:
  - House Ways and Means Committee
  - House Energy and Commerce Committee
  - Senate Finance Committee
  - Senate HELP Committee
Leadership

I've worked too hard to get within arm's reach of the prize only to have my hand cut off just before I seize it.
An Uphill Climb…Signing A Bill Into Law

Congress operates in two-year terms

Historical look at the number of bills signed into law since 1999:

- 106th (1999-2000) 558 (6%)
- 107th (2001-2002) 350 (4%)
- 108th (2003-2004) 476 (6%)
- 109th (2005-2006) 465 (4%)
- 110th (2007-2008) 442 (4%)
- 111th (2009-2010) 366 (3%)
- 112th (2011-2012) 238 (2%)
Congressional Resources

➢ Find your Representative
   www.house.gov

➢ Search for Active Legislation (bill text, cosponsors, summary, and status)
   www.thomas.loc.gov

➢ Reference the House & Senate Calendars
   www.majorityleader.gov
   www.senate.gov
My “ASK”
Final Thoughts

“Truth will ultimately prevail where there is pains to bring it to light.”

– George Washington
Thank You

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