

Tips for Congressional Meetings Related to the Dream and Promise Act of 2019

PRIOR TO THE MEETING

- Review the member profile for the legislator whose office you are meeting with.
- Make your points salient by explaining how Dreamers, and recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) affect the legislator's district and constituents, as well as the university, state and nation.
- If possible, discuss the issue from a personal perspective (share your own experience or that of a family member or friend who has experience with these issues).

DURING THE MEETING

- Be concise and make your point clearly.
- Engage the member of Congress/staff by sharing your experiences.
- Leave time for questions from the office.
- If you are meeting with staff, remember they are responsible for briefing the member of Congress and recommending action.
- Work to establish long-term relationships with staff. Try to arrange for follow-ups.
- Remember to thank the member and staff for their time before you leave.

AFTER THE MEETING

- Media—social, print and digital—are excellent ways of engaging further with an office. All congressional offices track where and when the legislator appears in media, and reports on this daily, so a social media post that identifies the member and/or staff can lead to change. Multiple mentions from different constituencies are very likely to get noticed.

Social Media Engagement

Tips for Social Media

- Make your social media posts short, positive and to the point
- Include relevant hashtags and accounts in posts for more visibility
- When possible, use the #UCinDC hashtag so the university can engage with your posts
- Consider posting to social media in the following situations:
 - Before or after you attend a congressional meeting, tagging the relevant member
 - After you hear a congressional office express support for your issue
 - If you take a photo with a member of Congress or staff
 - To reflect and discuss personal highlights about your meetings

Sample Posts

- Thank you @SampleRep for your support of The Dream and Promise Act #Dreamers #DACA #TPS #DED #ProtectTheDream #UCinDC
- Had a great meeting with @SampleSenator about the Dream and Promise Act to protect our nation's #Dreamers. #UCinDC #ProtectTheDream
- Thanks for your time @SampleRep, Please consider our stories when voting on legislation to protect #Dreamers #DACA #TPS #DED #UCinDC #ProtectTheDream