

Tips for Meeting & Speaking with PA Legislators

Scheduling Your Meeting

- Call or email your legislator's local district office to schedule a meeting during Care in Our Communities Week. (If your legislator offers to meet at a later date, that's okay, too!)
- Be kind and respectful to your legislators' local district staffers, and offer to meet with a staffer if your legislator is unavailable. Staffers are valuable contacts who can help you!
- While in-person meetings can have the strongest impact, if you cannot meet in person, offer to schedule a Zoom or phone meeting instead.
- If your legislator cannot meet with you in person or remotely, you can still make an impact! Write and mail a letter to your legislator's district office, or call their office after business hours to leave a detailed voicemail message they will receive the next morning.

Preparing for Your Meeting

- **Prepare to focus on a few key ideas that are important to you or that you're passionate about.** Then plan some supporting details that back up these key ideas.
- Plan to share your personal experiences, whether you're a healthcare professional or a patient advocate! Personal stories and experiences carry a strong impact.
- Do some quick research beforehand to see where your legislator stands on this issue or on similar legislation in the past.
- Keep your messages quick, simple, and to the point.
- **Be prepared with some statistics** that reflect the needs or impact of the local area.

During Your Meeting

- If you're ever not sure about an answer to a question, or if you're missing data they request, say that you'll check and **get back to them later with that information.**
- Reference notes during your meeting to help you remember important points you want to cover.
- Don't read materials aloud to legislators or staffers; they can read your materials afterwards. Instead use your time to emphasize key messages.
- Emphasize the positive impact Full Practice Authority for NPs would make in your life or in your community, and remember to **focus on how this will help patients living in their district.**
- Don't assume legislators or staffers already know about Full Practice Authority and how it can increase healthcare access. You can ask if your legislator is familiar with these issues and provide background info for them.
- Bring and leave behind materials for legislators to review after your meeting, or share follow-up materials in a thank you letter or email. And don't forget **follow up with a thank you!**

