
Meeting Logistics

Meeting duration: Meetings will typically last 30 minutes, so it's important to focus on a few topics of conversation. Don't be surprised if a meeting is cut short; the Congressional schedule is unpredictable.

Virtual Meetings: During the COVID-19 pandemic, the House and Senate are operating under rules that place significant restrictions and logistical burdens on in-person meetings. Meetings are primarily occurring over video-conference.

Speaking with Congressional Staff

Take time to introduce yourself: Federal audiences care about who is saying something as much as what they are saying. Before jumping into the issues, spend a few minutes on introductions & AAHKS background.

You don't have to be an expert on Congress; you just need to be an expert on what you do. The value you are providing is information about AAHKS issues, your perspective, your patients' experience.

Expect a conversational format: Questions, requests for clarification, even a few laughs are normal. You're there to engage meaningfully with your Congressional representation; not respond to a subpoena.

Expect Varying Degrees of Expertise: Some staff will have an in-depth knowledge of AAHKS issues, but most will benefit from a reminder of key terms. (e.g. they might not immediately recall what "BPCI" is).

Do's & Don'ts

Don't worry if you don't know the answer to a question. Just let the staff know that AAHKS will get back to them with their requested information (and let AAHKS staff or Lobbyists know).

Don't get too political: It's best to play it safe and keep to policy topics and relevant anecdotes from your experience.

Do follow up: Advocacy is an exercise in repetition. It takes time to build familiarity, and a relationship. A good start is sending folks a quick note of thanks, mentioning some of the issues you discussed.

