

### HOW TO FIND AN EVENT

**Find your Member of Congress:** <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> Senators represent the entire state.

**Newsletter:** Sign up for their email — most offices announce events a week or two ahead, before it hits social media.

**Social media:** Follow their official and campaign accounts; look for the verified ones.

**District office:** Call directly and ask, "Do you have any upcoming town halls or public events?" — this often surfaces dates not posted online.

### YOUR ROLE AT THE EVENT

This is an opportunity to make a connection with the Member and their staff.

You need the relationship before the ask!

Your goal is to make sure the Member hears this concern directly from a constituent in the district, and to identify who on staff you can follow up with to discuss further.

### HOW TO APPROACH THE MEMBER

**At the microphone:** Introduce yourself with your name, where you're from, and the topic that's important to you.

**Example:** "Thank you for hosting this event, my name is Dr. Stevens, I am a surgeon who cares for seniors in our community, and I live in town center. I am very concerned about CMS proposed cuts to surgeons like me and the impact this will have on my Medicare patients. Is this something you are tracking? If not, is there someone on your staff I could connect with to discuss it further?"

**One-on-one interaction:** Say your name, where you're from, and that you'd love to get connected with the Member's health staffer to discuss proposed CMS cuts to certain specialty surgeons that Medicare recipients rely on heavily.

**If you can't interact with the Member:** Find staff in attendance, introduce yourself by name and city to confirm you're a constituent, briefly describe the issue as above, and ask for a meeting with the health staffer in DC.

### FOLLOW-UP AFTER THE EVENT

**Given an email:** Send a follow-up to the health care staffer requesting a meeting to discuss the topic further.

**Given only a name:** Call the DC office, mention the event and staffer's name, and ask to follow up — you'll be transferred to voicemail or given an email. Leave your name, contact info, the event you attended, and that you want to discuss proposed CMS cuts to specialty surgeons Medicare recipients rely on heavily.

**Given no name:** Call the DC office, mention the event you attended, and ask to be connected with the health staffer.

### WHY THIS MATTERS

District touches show Members that constituents care about this issue — and give you a direct contact for the health staffer to follow up with once the final rule is published.

Because the final rule hasn't yet been issued, expect a polite listen, the Member's position (if they have one), and a suggestion to circle back once finalized. This is still a worthwhile touch to begin a relationship with the Member and their staff.

### REPORT BACK TO AAHKS AFTER THE EVENT

**Timing:** Send a short recap to AAHKS's advocacy/government affairs team within 24–48 hours, while details are still fresh.

**Include:** Event date and location; the Member's name; whether you spoke at the mic or one-on-one; the staffer's name and contact info (if obtained); the Member's or staffer's reaction or position; and any next steps or meeting scheduled.

**How:** Email your recap to the AAHKS advocacy team or complete the post-event report form, if provided.

### WHAT TO SHARE IN THE MEETING

**Introduce yourself:** Name, specialty (hip/knee surgeon), and that you treat Medicare patients in the district.

**Explain the issue:** CMS's proposed cuts to reimbursement for specialty surgeries Medicare recipients rely on heavily, and the risk to patient access if surgeons can't sustain their practices.

**Personalize it:** Share a brief patient story illustrating real-world impact.

**Make a specific ask:** Request the Member's support opposing the cuts, or ask them to sign a letter or cosponsor relief legislation once available. (Check with AAHKS before the meeting to receive the most up to date materials and "ask")

**Leave materials:** Provide an AAHKS one-pager or fact sheet if you have one.

**Close with next steps:** Ask what else the staffer might need from you or AAHKS before briefing the Member.

### HOW TO FOLLOW UP WITH AAHKS AFTER THE MEETING

**Timing:** Send AAHKS your meeting recap within 24–48 hours.

**Include:** Meeting date; who you met with (name and title); what was discussed; their reaction or position; any commitments made; and agreed next steps.

**How:** Email your recap to the AAHKS advocacy/government relations team or complete the post-meeting report form.

**Why:** This helps AAHKS track relationships nationwide and coordinate follow-up — fact sheets, sign-on letters, coalition asks — with the same office.

### BEFORE YOU GO — QUICK CHECKLIST

☐ Confirm date, time, and location on the official congressional website ☐ Know your representative's name and district number ☐ Write your question down ☐ Bring ID ☐ Arrive early

#### DO

- ✓ RSVP early and arrive at least 15–20 minutes before start time.
- ✓ Bring photo ID if the event requires check-in or security screening.
- ✓ Prepare one clear, specific question or ask in advance.
- ✓ State your name and the city or neighborhood you live in before speaking.
- ✓ Be concise — most events give each person 30–60 seconds at the mic.
- ✓ Share a personal story or local example; it's more persuasive than statistics alone.
- ✓ Listen respectfully to the answer, even if you disagree with it.
- ✓ Follow up afterward with a written letter, email, or call to the district office.
- ✓ Thank staff and volunteers — they organize these events and relay concerns.
- ✓ Check the office's website or social media for any event-specific rules.

#### DON'T

- ✗ Don't bring signs, banners, or props if the venue prohibits them — check first.
- ✗ Don't monopolize the microphone with multiple questions or a long preamble.
- ✗ Don't shout, interrupt, or heckle other attendees or the Member.
- ✗ Don't assume every event allows open Q&A — some are listening sessions only.
- ✗ Don't bring weapons or prohibited items; expect bag checks at many events.
- ✗ Don't be discouraged by a scripted or noncommittal answer — that's common.
- ✗ Don't forget the event may be recorded or livestreamed — assume it's public.
- ✗ Don't confuse district staff with policy decision-makers; be courteous either way.
- ✗ Don't leave immediately after speaking — stay to hear others' concerns.
- ✗ Don't post attendees' photos or personal details online without consent.