



Advocacy: The Legislative Visit

Preparing for the Visit

- Make an appointment to visit your member of the legislator when they are home on long weekends or during recesses. The Legislature typically convenes in early January and adjourns in late August or early September. Dates vary, but recesses generally take place around Easter.
- Make clear which issue(s) you want to discuss (no more than three).
- Gather information. Learn about your legislators' records on nursing issues. Become familiar with the opposition's views and arguments on the issues to help you answer questions.
- Prepare materials to leave with the legislator or staff such as copies of relevant nursing position papers, and a memo or fact sheet summarizing your main concerns.
- Work in coalition to underscore the broad appeal of your position. Agree on specific talking points and lobbying goals and designate a lead spokesperson for the meeting.
- Confirm the appointment the morning of or day before the meeting. Arrive on time.

During the Visit

- Identify yourself as a member ANA\C.
- Introduce yourself and start on a positive note. If s/he recently voted in support of a nursing issue, thank her/him.
- Clearly state the position of ANA\C or the coalition you are representing.
- Explain your position with facts, but also use personal stories when possible. Let the legislator understand the personal ramifications or benefits resulting from their actions.
- If you don't understand something, ask for an explanation.
- Ask the legislator or staff to clarify what their position is on the issue.
- Ask the legislator to take some specific actions such as sponsoring a bill, or voting for or against a pending measure.
- If you don't know the answer to a question, say so, but offer to get an answer.
- Thank the legislator and staff as you leave.

After the Visit

- Write or call legislators and staff to thank them for their time. Remind them of anything they may have agreed to do and send additional information.
- Share the results of your meetings with ANA\C staff at 916-447-0225 or email us at anac@anacalifornia.org. Share insights you have gained about legislators' concerns and ask others to lobby.
- Find out when the legislators will be in your home district hosting town hall meetings or forums and organize a group to attend.
- Maintain Communication with legislators and their staff through letters, phone calls and visits