Tips for a Successful Legislative Visit

Stay on Message

➢ Share personal experience or data that demonstrates how a certain policy will affect your practice and your community. You are the expert in the room.
➢ If asked a question about the other side of the argument, answer the question as completely as you can, giving your particular perspective.

Keep it Brief

➢ If you are requesting action on a legislative issue, communicate that up front.
➢ Legislators’ time is limited. Have a plan to budget your time appropriately.

Frame the Issue

➢ Your case is stronger if you present the issue as the legislator sees it, and if you explain how the issue affects the legislator.
➢ Recognize that compromise is important.

Work with Staff

➢ Be on time and let the Legislative Assistant know you’re there.
➢ Never view legislative staff as a “second resort.” Legislators rely heavily on them.

Say Thank You!

➢ Send your legislator a thank you note via mail and/or e-mail.
➢ Follow up promptly with any information you have promised to provide legislators or staff.