

2019 ASTRO Advocacy Day First Timers Webinar

Presenters:

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ASTRO



Agenda

- Why Advocate?
- Legislation Versus Regulation
- Advocacy Training on April 29
- What to expect
 - During a meeting
 - Post meeting
- Q&A

What is Advocacy?

Effective advocacy enables the profession to shape the debate on important issues affecting the field of radiation oncology. Advocacy ensures that we have a voice in health care policies.

What kinds of activities comprise advocacy work?

- Educate Legislators: Provide information on issues.
- Invite Legislators to Your Facility: Leave a lasting impression

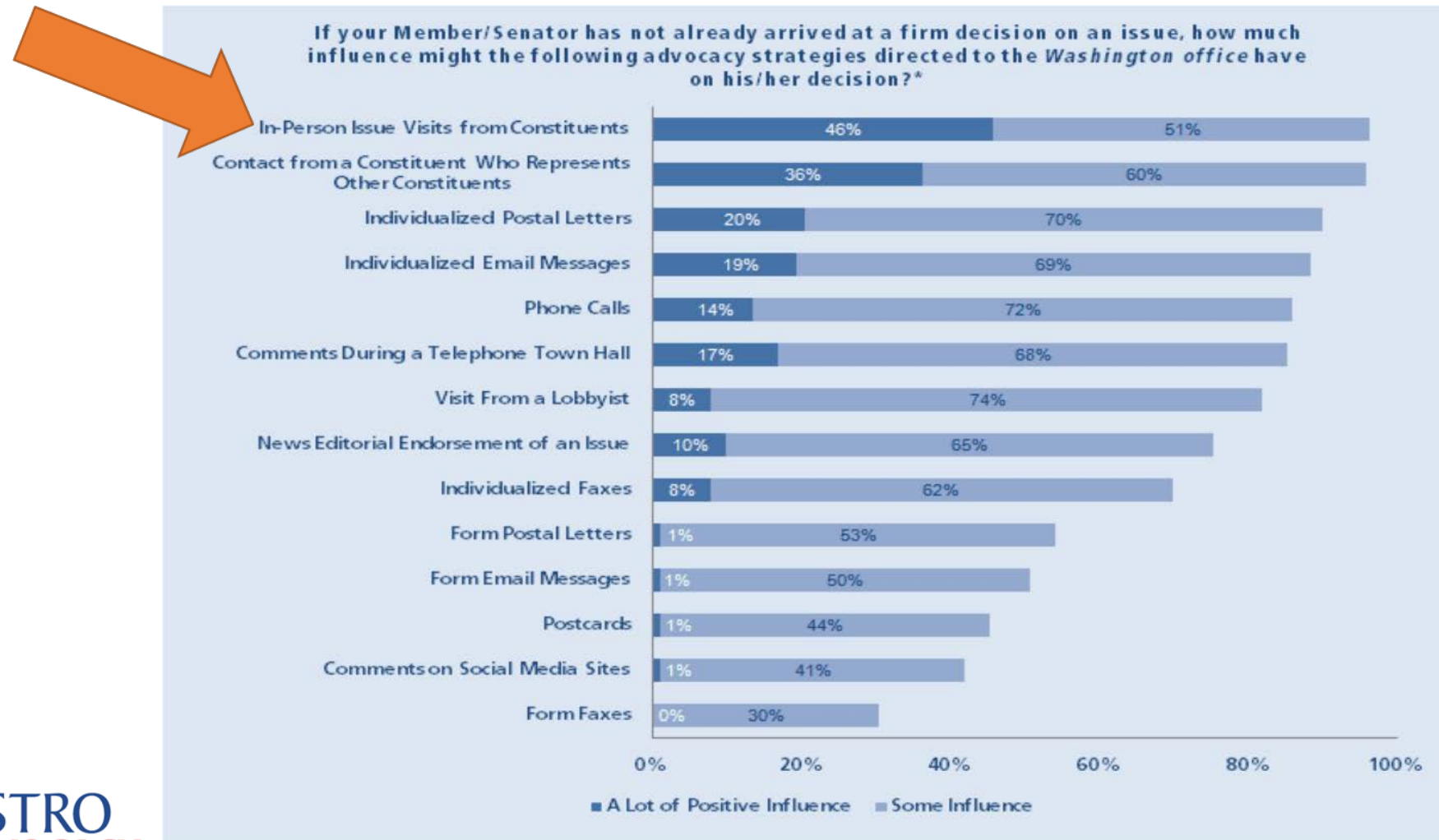
Who Advocates?

EVERYONE

Members of Congress, and their staff, learn about the priorities in their districts/states from advocates. Legislators want to hear from you!

Meeting with, and maintaining relationships with congressional offices is key to ensuring the Society's priorities are heard.

What Influences Members of Congress?

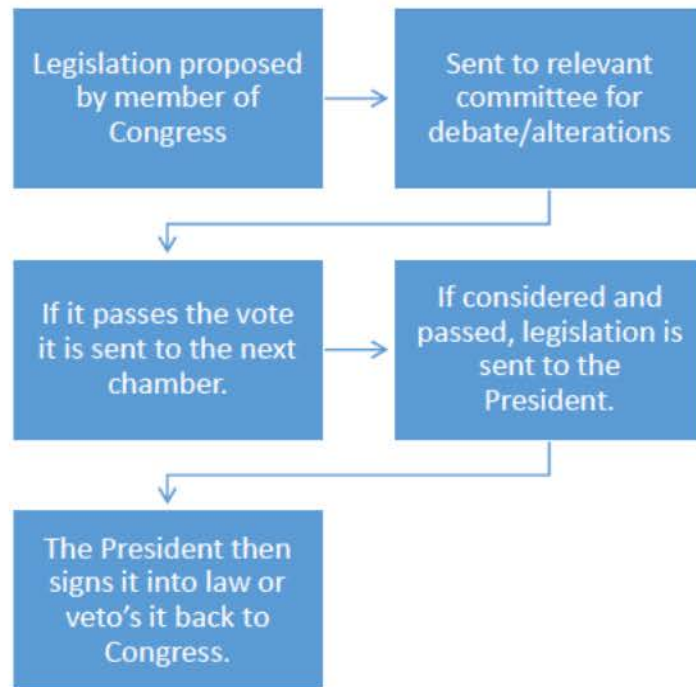


ASTRO's Legislative Issues

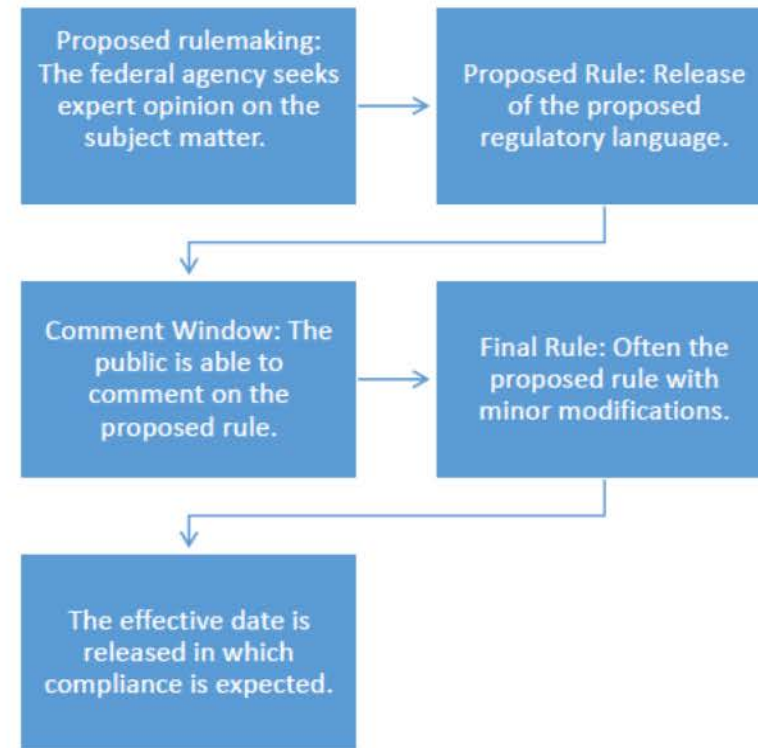
- Preserving Access to Cancer Care through Stable Medicare Payments and Alternative Payment Models
- Fix Issues with Prior Authorization
- Increasing Investments in Radiation Oncology Research
- Avoiding Coverage Disruptions for Cancer Patients
- Maintain Medical Usage of Radioactive Isotopes

Legislation vs. Regulations

Legislation



Regulations



Legislative process: how a bill becomes a law

**Legislation may be introduced in either chamber, except for tax law (must originate in the House)*

Representative*

- Introduces bill in the House

House committee/subcommittee

- Bill is debated and amended
- Simple majority needed to proceed

House floor

- Bill is debated and amended
- **Speaker must allow a floor vote**
- Simple majority needed to pass

Senator*

- Introduces bill in the Senate

Senate committee/subcommittee

- Bill is debated and amended
- Simple majority needed to proceed

Senate floor

- Bill is debated and amended
- **3/5 majority needed to end debate**
- Simple majority needed to pass

***Most major bills goes to conference committee; when a chamber passes legislation originating in the other chamber without making changes, bill goes straight to Pres.*

Final votes/conference committee**

- If both chambers pass an identical bill, the bill is sent directly to the president
- If each chamber passes a similar bill with some differences, a conference committee is formed to reach compromise and combine the bills

President

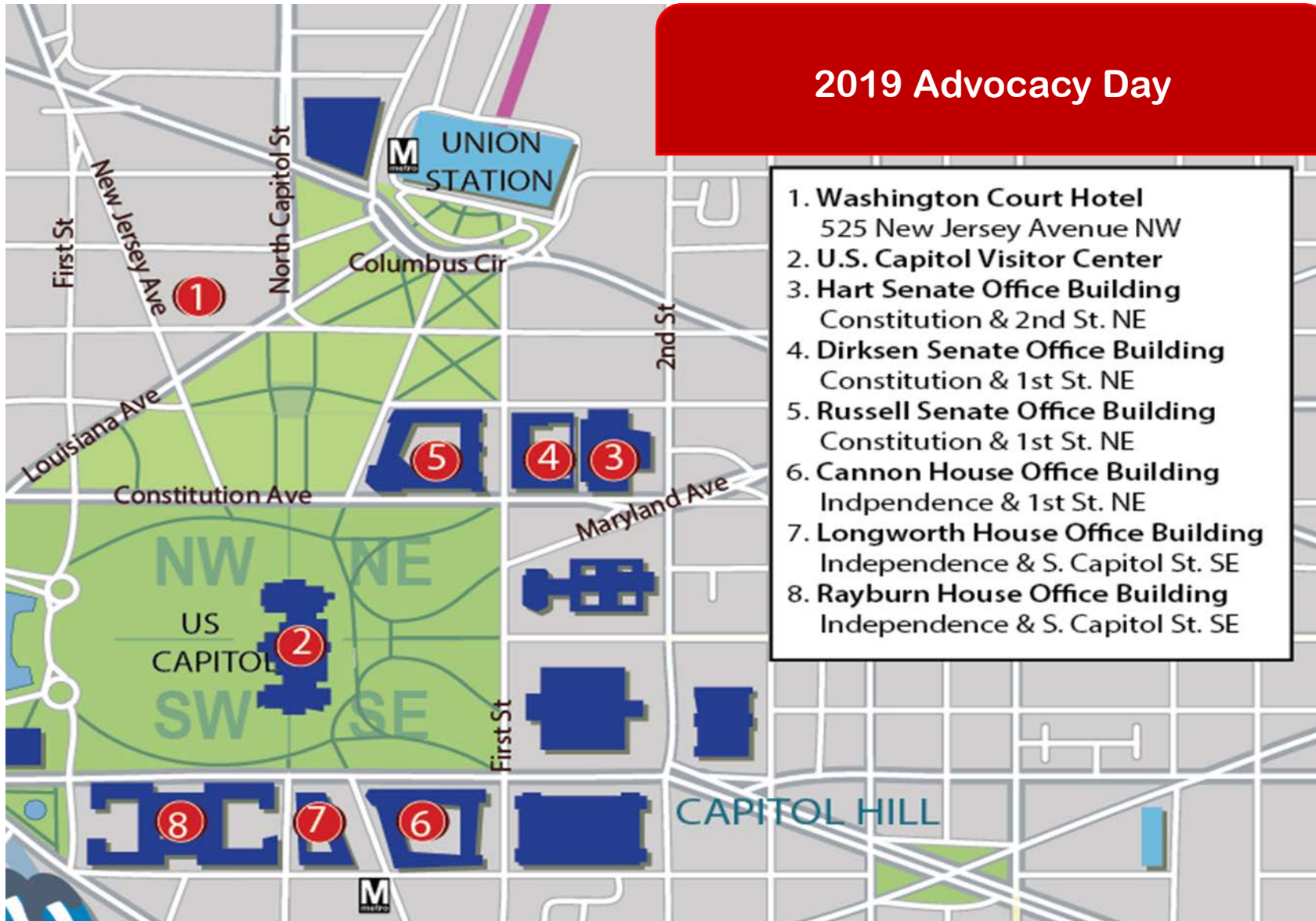
- The president can sign bills that have been passed by both chambers into law
- The president can reject a bill with a veto; Congress can override a veto by passing the bill in each chamber with a 2/3 majority



Before Advocacy Meeting...

- Brainstorm a compelling story that can be used to demonstrate impact of a certain policy (2 weeks beforehand)
- Visit your policymaker's website (2 weeks beforehand and again the day before the meeting)
 - www.house.gov
 - www.senate.gov
- Review recent healthcare news (1-2 days before)

2019 Advocacy Day



2019



ASTRO
ADVOCACY
DAY

#ASTROAdvocacy

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR RADIATION ONCOLOGY

251 18TH ST. SOUTH · 8TH FLOOR · ARLINGTON, VA 22202

Monday, April 29, 2019

8:00 a.m.	Registration	3:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Break
10:00 a.m.	Pick up Hill Day Schedules	4:00 -5:00 p.m.	Federal Issues Briefing
11:30 a.m.	Lunch		
11:45 a.m.- Noon	Welcome and State Roll Call		
Noon- 1:00 p.m.	Chair's Address: Paul M. Harari *CME Credits Available	5:15 p.m.	Advocacy Day Photo
1-2p.m.	Health Policy U.S. Department of Health and Human Services *invited	5:45 p.m.	Buses load to the ASTRO PAC Dinner
2 - 2:45 p.m.	Rep. Paul D. Tonko	6 p.m.	Invitation Only: ASTRO PAC Dinner (Invitation only for PAC donors of \$1,000 or more in 2019, \$125 for residents, nurses and administrators)
2:45- 3:45 p.m.	Social Media and Advocacy: How to Get Engaged Online *CME Credits Available		

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

7:30 -8:30 a.m.

Breakfast at Washington Court Hotel

9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Senate Office Visits

12:30 -1:30 p.m.

Networking Lunch

2045 Rayburn House Office Building

1:00 p.m.

Lunch Guest Speaker:
Representative Kim Schrier, M.D.

1:30– 5:00 p.m.

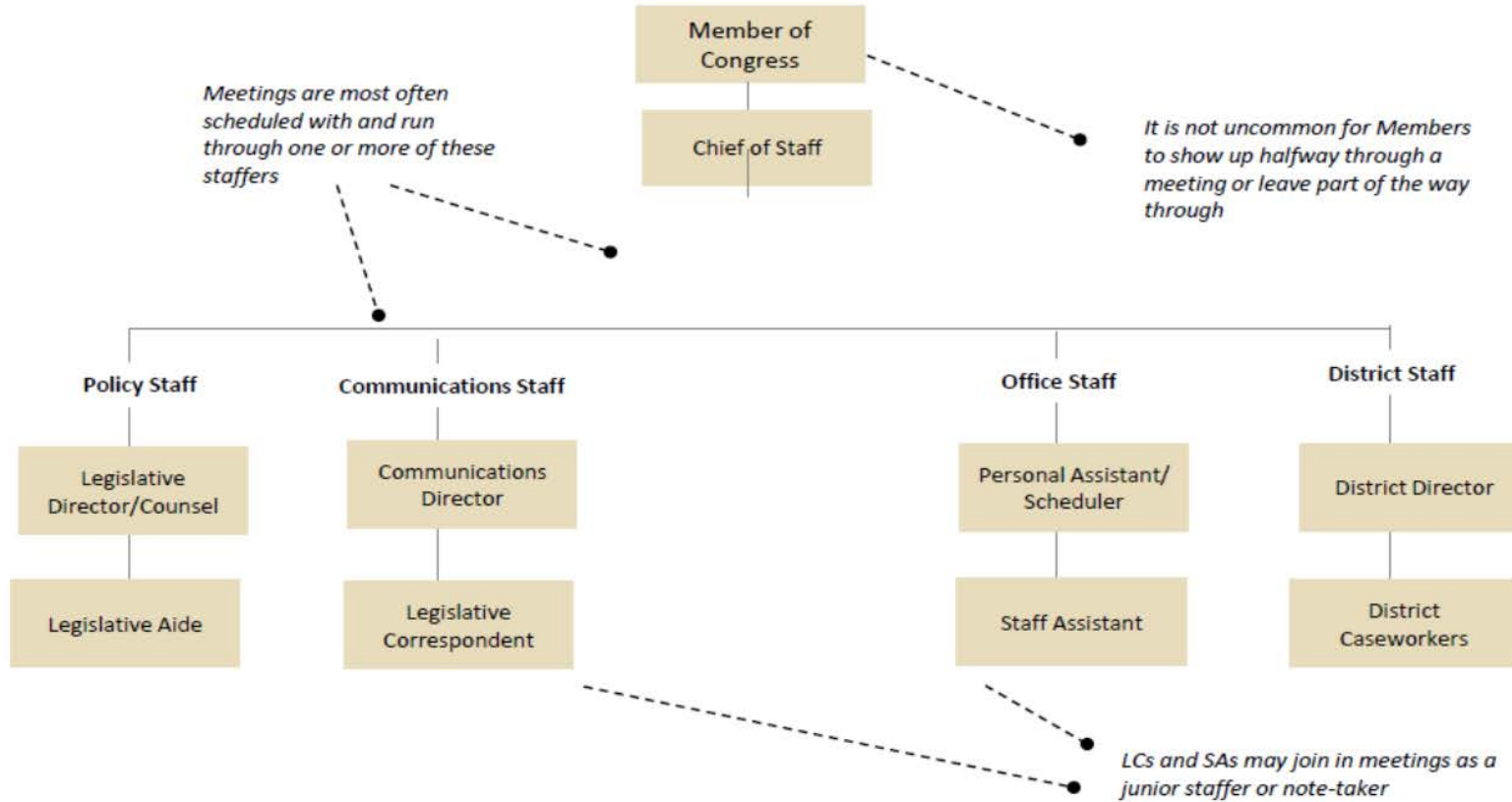
House Office Visits

Generally Hill Staffers Fall Into Two Categories

Overview of personal and committee congressional staff

	Personal office staff	Committee staff
Line of reporting	Hired by one member of Congress and only responsible to that member	Hired by chairman or ranking member of committee; work for all Democratic or Republican committee members
Job overview	Work on combination of policy and constituent-service matters, depending on needs of district	Work exclusively on policy, within area of committee
Issues	Practice over range of issues	Specialize in committee-related issue
Background	More likely to be from district or state of hiring member; tend to have trust of member	Less likely to be from district or state of chairman or ranking member; tend to be expert in issue area
Number	The average representative has 14 staffers working for them; average Senator has 30	House committees average 68 staff and Senate committees average 46
Sample titles	Chief of Staff, Legislative Director, Legislative Assistant	Staff Director, Policy Analyst, Committee Counsel

Office Structure



During Your Visit...

- Explain who you are, where you live, and community affiliations
- Focus the meeting on what's most important
- In group meetings, break up the issues
- Share your experiences and personalize the issues
- Make a specific ask to maintain the relationship:
 - * Visit a RadOnc Center
 - * Visit NCI
- Remember your ASTRO hat!
- Get the staffer's contact information, and leave your follow-up information behind.

Don't be surprised if you find yourself....

- Waiting in the hall—It's not just you! Congressional offices are too small to host waiting groups.
- Meeting with staffers under 30—They may be young but they are often times the decision makers of the office.
- Walking A LOT—The distance between the House and Senate side is much greater than individuals anticipate, so wear comfortable shoes.

Building Strong Relationships is Key

- Before you leave, invite the Member of Congress and their staff to visit your center. Or a center in the DC area.
- Also ask if the staff and/or Member would like to visit NCI.
- Visits allow more time for them to learn about radiation oncology and our issues.
- Helps develop meaningful relationships
- After the meeting, be sure to connect with ASTRO staff to debrief on your visits so that they can help coordinate visits and follow-up

Tips to Remember

- There is usually some confusion between radiology/radiation oncology
- Staff and members meet with dozens of people everyday. Make them remember you and your issues.
- DO NOT discuss election/campaign contributions in your meetings
- Be personable, be direct, be clear and concise

Reminder: Advocate Checklist

Before Advocacy Meeting:

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During Advocacy Meeting:

- Explain impact of policy issue through personal story
- Share where you live and work in the congressional district
- Discuss how radiation therapy is used to treat cancer patients in the congressional district
- Explain how a surgeon, medical oncologist and radiation oncologist work together to treat cancer patients
- State the policy points and wait for response
- Take note of any questions and policy positions stated
- **Make the ask! Visit a RadOnc center and NCI.**

Upcoming Webinars

- Social Media and Advocacy
Tuesday, April 9th at 1p.m. ET
- ASTRO's Legislative Issues
 - Tuesday, April 23rd at 11 a.m. ET

Note: The webinars will be recorded and posted on the “resources page” for Advocacy Day.



Questions?