

Meeting With Your Representatives



Making it personal!

Meeting your Representative is a great way to connect and provide a personal touch to the issue. To make your visit go smoothly, here are a few hints:

- 1. Prepare:** Decide if you will be meeting with your Representative alone or with a group. Discuss who will begin the meeting and how each member of the group will speak on a key point of the issue. Knowing in advance how much time you need to cover the issue as a group will allow you to be brief, effective and avoid repetition.
- 2. Research:** Identify whether or not your Representative has been affected by the issue you are presenting them with-have they had someone in their family affected? Have they supported previous legislation regarding a similar issue? Identifying these facts will be beneficial when speaking to your Representative.
- 3. At home:** Your Representative's schedule is less hectic when they are in their home office. This is often a more relaxed environment for you to meet them and discuss what is important to you. Also, you are also at home in your community and able to involve others locally.
- 4. Community-oriented:** Do you or members of your group have something in common with your Representative? Do your kids go to the same activities? Is there something within their office that you also have an interest in? Remember, your Representative may have been in meetings throughout the day and by beginning with a common interest, you may have a more meaningful meeting.
- 5. Be Brief:** Introduce yourself, state why you are calling, ask your Representative where he/she stands on the issue, and be persuasive about why you want their support. You can discuss the issue and gain insight as to your Representative's position on the issue(s) but if you don't ask for a specific action, you won't get one. Prepare a leave-behind packet with the information you have discussed.
- 6. Share:** Share your story and why this issue is important to you. Making it personal shows how this issue affects you and why you need your Representatives' support. Choose one member of the group to focus on sharing their story to make it personal.
- 7. Thank:** If your Representative agrees to support your issue, thank him/her. Thank them for their time regardless of their position on the issue and tell them you will follow up with them in the near future.
- 8. Feedback:** Please provide feedback to those organizations that have been promoting advocacy efforts on the issue you have contacted your Representative about. Your participation and feedback on the call is crucial to those you are advocating with.
- 9. Follow up:** Send a handwritten note to again thank them for their time. If you promise to follow up by providing them with further information, let them know how and when they will receive it. Be persistent. As you follow the legislation, call back to ask for specific support or action from your Representative as it relates to the process.

987 Dacusville Road
Marietta, SC 29661
864-836-4609

info@braintumorawareness.org
www.braintumorawareness.org
EIN #30-0413301