



Preparing for your Federal Legislator Visit

Check NTDC website for *additional resources*: <https://www.nursestakedc.com/>

Make sure that you discuss appropriate legislation with the appropriate legislator. U.S. Congress has 535 voting members: 435 **house representatives** and 100 **senators**. Discuss *federal* issues with members of your *federal legislature* (U.S House of Representatives and U.S. Senators). NTDC page “Find Your Elected Officials” click: <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>

- ✓ Send ahead NTDC Factsheet to their Congressional office – the best way for the legislator to be prepared is to send them the bill you wish to discuss before your meeting – your objective is to **“make the ask”** for their **support for the bills S. 1567/H.R. 3165** Factsheets on NTDC page: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3165>
- ✓ Make your position on the bill when you make the call for your visit appointment, to prepare their staff and the legislator on what you will be speaking to them about at your visit.
- ✓ Share if you are a part of an organization.
- ✓ You should have a business card to identify who you are, your credentials, affiliation with nursing organizations, address, phone number & email.

Prepare a written interview agenda of topics to cover - practice it and take it to the meeting. Include:

- **Introductions.**
 - **Introduce yourself** and any others accompanying you!
 - **Share if you’re a member of an organization** (i.e. Nurses Take DC).
 - **Explain the purpose of your meeting to the legislator at the beginning of the meeting** for example: “I’d like to discuss safe nurse staffing proposal” with Senator S. 1357 (Senate bill); H.R. 2581 (House bill) House Rep.
 - NTDC information on the nurse staffing bills at <https://www.nursestakedc.com/legislative-information>
 - Legislator Meetings usually last *20 or so minutes*.
- **Identify your concerns/position on the issue/bill. Use an example that you are familiar with to explain why the bill is needed to pass.** Nurse constituent input is valuable to elected legislators informing them on health policy bill proposals, impacting their perspective and vote & *share your own experiences!* Remind legislators “the public” is your family, their family and the constituents they serve *all are prospective patients*. Registered nurse (RN) staffing is associated with better patient outcomes, including lower mortality and failure to rescue, shorter lengths of stay, fewer readmissions, fewer complications & higher patient satisfaction. Adequate nurse staffing improving patient outcomes *is well researched*. Find many articles at NTDC page: <https://www.nursestakedc.com/research>
- **Make the “Ask” of the legislator** for his/her support for your position/proposed bill.
- **Ask for their co-sponsorship** of the bill.
- **Answer questions if any**, be their nurse constituent expert resource as the bill proceeds through the legislative process. *Others may have an opposing opinion of your bill. Your opinion is relevant as an expert in nursing!*
- **Thank them** for their time. Leave legislator a factsheet and your contact information.
- **Follow up with them.** *Keep them apprised of the bill’s path.*