



Michigan Conference

The United Methodist Church

ADVOCACY DAY 2024

ROADMAP FOR LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

March 13, 2024

GETTING STARTED

This roadmap will be your guide during your visit to state legislators to discuss equal mental health access. You are welcome to customize this process to your group experience.

Name of MI House Representative:

Name of MI Senator:

Meeting Connection Details:

Group Meeting Time:

Meeting Location:

ESTABLISH MEETING ROLES

Begin by designating a group leader and a note taker.

GROUP LEADER

Name:

Email & Phone Number:

Before the meeting

- Work with group members to complete the roadmap.
- Email members ahead of time to confirm time and location of meeting.
- Decide when and how your delegation will connect before the meeting. For example, meet at your designated Senate district table at Central UMC, the church entrance, or at the actual meeting.
- Identify an issue for which the legislator could be thanked or ask a delegation member to do this.



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During the meeting:

- Ask your delegation to convene 10 minutes before the meeting.
- For meetings with senators, arrive at the Binsfeld Senate Office Building with enough time to get a badge from security.
- When you arrive at the appropriate office, introduce yourself and the team.
- Facilitate flow of conversation among delegation members, with one eye to inclusivity and the other on the clock. Make sure the ask is repeated clearly.
- During the visit, it is critical to keep to the roadmap by calling on members of the delegation to speak and prompting the legislator/staffer to ask questions.

NOTE TAKER

Name:

Email & Phone Number:

- Collect the names and contact information of everyone in the meeting to send to the legislator/staffer after the visit.
- Be prepared to document results of the meeting and enter them into a Google form we will provide.

DELEGATION MEMBERS/STORY TELLERS

Names:

Emails & Phone Numbers:

Prepare a personal story about why this issue matters to you. You don't need to be an expert—your legislators work for you and care about your opinions. Telling your story is an important way to connect with the values and priorities your legislators care about, and it can help change their minds. Ask follow-up questions to learn more about the members' position on the issue. Keep to the time your group decided on for your story; have a watch or clock in front of you to track time.

Remember: Be polite and respectful! This meeting is part of building a relationship.



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ROADMAP FOR MEETINGS

Fill in the details as you plan your visit, using the blank spaces provided note the amount of time each part of the meeting will take.

1. Introduce yourselves. _____ *Suggested time: 5 minutes*

- *Group Leader* briefly introduces the group participants, explaining who the group is and your relevant faith, community, and professional affiliation.
- *Note Taker* explains to the legislator/staffer that the group will provide a list of the delegation members in a follow up email. Ask for the appropriate contact information if you don't have it.
- *Participants* introduce themselves briefly including where they live and if they are a constituent.

2. Confirm time _____

- *Group Leader* confirms how much time the legislator/staffer has available to meet with the group.

3. Express appreciation _____

- *Delegation Member* thanks the office for a position the legislator has taken which you support.
- This can be something simple, don't overthink it. If she/he supported current legislation, thank them for that.

4. Introduce the ask

- *Delegation Member* asks for support for mental health legislation.
- Summarize the specific asks from the one pager.



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5. Tell your stories _____ *Suggested time: 10 minutes*

- *Delegation Members/Storytellers* explain why you care about this issue, what it means to your community, and how it relates to the ask.
 - Story 1:
 - Story 2:
 - Story 3:

6. Questions: Ask/Follow-up/Listen _____ *Suggested time: 10 minutes*

- *Delegation Members* ask and respond to follow up questions and then listen to the legislator/staffer's responses to your request.
- Sample Questions:
 - Do you support the ask? What other information do you need?
 - What strategies do you support to address this question?
 - Do you hear from constituents on this issue?

7. Repeat the ask _____

- *Delegation Member* repeats the ask and reminds the legislator/staffer that the *Note Taker* will send an email with the names of delegation members.

8. Express gratitude _____

- *Group Leader* thanks the legislator or staff member for their time and concern.

9. Post meeting follow up.

- *Note Taker* emails the legislator/staffer within three days of the visit to thank her/him and to send list of delegation members.

Adapted from FCNL's Virtual Lobby Visit

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION • 245 2ND STREET NE • WASHINGTON, DC 20002

RoadmapFCNL.ORG • PHONE: (800) 630-1330 • FAX: (202) 547-6019