



25th Annual Washington Conference

May 15-17, 2023

The Hilton Alexandria Old Town
Washington, DC



What to Do and Say on Capitol Hill

While attending the 25th Annual Washington Conference, we are planning on visiting as many Congressional offices as we can on Capitol Hill or in a virtual setting.

Before You Continue Reading

Make sure that you have already set up your Capitol Hill appointments for our Washington Days event BEFORE you arrive. If multiple people are attending from your state, you should work together on making your appointments, so there is no duplication of effort. If you need instructions, review the “How to Schedule Congressional Meetings” document in the Attendee Tool Kit on the Washington Conference website.

Scheduling Meetings: “20-30 minutes to talk, ten to walk”

All appointments should be scheduled to allow for a total of 40 minutes, giving you 20-30 minutes to talk (and no more than 30 minutes max in any Congressperson’s office, so as not to wear out your welcome!), and then 10 minutes to walk to the next appointment for consecutive Senate or consecutive House appointments; however, about 30 minutes will be needed to travel from the Senate side of Capitol Hill to the House side, or vice versa.

While you will leave a copy of the Legislative Packet (either personally or digitally) with each Senator, Representative or legislative aide containing all our Position Papers, you will only have the time to verbally discuss 2-3 of our issues. AMCA will let you know the priority topics that you should definitely discuss during your visits. Depending on how familiar your audience is with our field, you may want to open your visit with a 5-minute-or-less overview of why mosquito control is essential overall and specifically in your home MCD/MAD. During your actual 20-30 minute meeting, start your discussion on the first targeted topic, and then pace yourself to review the other one or two targeted topics too, such that you cover our priorities but also don’t overextend your 20-30 minute visit. If there is a topic that is of particular interest within your home MCD/MAD, you may choose to highlight that topic in place of one of the AMCA recommended issues.

“Do’s and Don’ts” When Visiting Congressional Offices

Stay focused on your objectives, your time limitations, and your issues. Do not talk about sports, the weather, or the latest gossip, celebrity, D.C., or otherwise! Do not become argumentative. Make your points as succinctly as possible, and do not beat them to death. If you are asked a question for which you do not know the answer, reply with, “That is a great question, and I will have someone from AMCA respond to you later this week.” Just make sure you remember to find out the answer and communicate it to the person who asked!

The Message: *What are we going to SAY?*

For all congressional visits (on House and Senate sides), individual AMCA members of the team for each state will be meeting with elected officials who are active on issues and possibly serve on committees important to us. We must inform them of our critical issues and urge them to get involved with their resolutions. Each congressional office will receive an AMCA Legislative Packet consisting of a fact sheet describing the AMCA and our 2022 Position Papers.

Public Health and the Importance of Public Health Pesticides

At each congressional office, it is essential for you to emphasize our role as stewards of human health and the vital role that public health pesticides play in preserving and protecting our people, especially the most vulnerable subpopulations, such as seniors and children. Let them know what your local priorities are and how you go about defending public health.

Parting Thoughts

Be flexible and ready to adapt to last-minute conditions beyond your control (e.g., changes in meeting locations or meeting times, no-shows, topic emphases, out-of-the-blue questions, Virtual meetings, etc.). If you’re looking for a

situation where Murphy's Law can apply, Capitol Hill office visits readily come to mind! But always keep in mind that this exercise in frontline democracy can actually be a lot of fun, so BE SURE TO HAVE FUN!