



How to Set-Up a Congressional Meeting

I. Call Your Member of Congress' office and tell them that you would like to schedule a meeting with a staffer(s)

Sample Script: *Hi. My name is _____ and I am a [MoC's] constituent. I would like to schedule a meeting with a staffer or staffers who handle immigration policy. I was hoping you could give me their name(s) and email address(s), so I can reach out to them. Thanks so much!*

II. Email the staffer(s) and propose a series of times for the day that you or your group would be available to meet. Try to be as flexible as possible while scheduling a time to meet.

Sample Email:

Hi _____,

My name is _____ and I would like to schedule a meeting on [date] between [insert times]. I would like to meet with a staffer in your office who works on immigration policy. Specifically, I want to talk about the Trump administration's policy of family separation at the border. I would be thrilled for the opportunity to talk to your office about this issue, and to offer the perspective of people of faith into the conversation.

Please let me know if you have recommendations for specific staff members to reach out to, or what else might be required to set up a meeting. I look forward to hearing back from you!

Best,

III. Show up to your meeting 5 – 10 minutes early and be ready to talk about ending family separation.

Sample Format for a Congressional Meeting

Meeting Format

Introduction (5 Minutes)

I am part of a group of constituents and am representing members of the faith society and today I would like to talk about the Trump administration's inhumane policy of family separation.

Share Your Story/Concerns as People of Faith (5 Minutes)

Asks (10 Minutes)

- Ask: Pass bipartisan legislation that will end the practice of family separation and will prevent it from occurring in the future.

Wrap-Up and Summary (5 Minutes)

- Ask the staffer if he or she has any requests of the group

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- Close the meeting by thanking them for the work they do
- Before you leave, make sure to share your contact information with the office and ask to be connected with someone before you leave

Family Separation

- Since this zero-tolerance policy began in April, more than 2,000 children have been torn from their parents and placed in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) this means that the ORR is now responsible for caring for 12,000 children.
- If this pattern continues, by August the total number of unaccompanied children will grow to 20,000. As a result, thousands of children have been forced to endure the abuse and trauma of separation, which can cause irreparable harm.
- The Department of Homeland Security announced a new policy in April 100% of adults caught crossing the border illegally will be referred to the Department of Homeland Security to be detained and prosecuted. The U.S. has a policy that if a child accompanies an adult who is prosecuted, then the children will be taken away and housed in a separate facility
- In the first 13 days of this new policy, 658 children were taken away from their families
- Children's parents/guardians are not always told where their children are being detained – there have been cases of parents being told their children are being taken away for a bath, only for their kids to be taken to a detention center
- The Office of Refugee Resettlement (which is responsible for housing migrant children) is running out of space to house the children and have begun building a tent city in Tornillo, TX
- Children who have suffered traumatic events are at a higher risk of: anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, attention-deficit disorder, lifelong risk of cardiovascular disease, and increases risk of strokes, diabetes, and cancer