DOCTORS FOR AMERICA

ADVOCACY

GRAND ROUNDS

Policy Resources
Talking to Legislators

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Arkaprava ‘Arka’ Deb
MD, MPH, MPA

Stephanie Kang
DrPH, MS

Matthew Wellington
Lobbying 101
Key Points

• Persuasion, not pressure
• Prioritize long term relationships
• Compelling reasons to say yes
Role of a Public Interest Lobbyist

- Provide information
- Persuade decision-makers
- Bridge inside & outside game
Goals

- Educate
- Persuade
- Build access, influence
Before the Meeting: Prep

- Materials on issue
- Demonstrative support
- Research on the legislator
Resources

- https://www.govtrack.us/
- www.congress.gov
- Legislator’s website
- News outlets in the legislator’s district/state
Effective Lobbying: In the Meeting

- Listen as much as you talk
- Make a direct ask
- Make clear follow-up plan
Typical Meeting Agenda

• Intros
  – Who you are / role
  – Thank them
  – Time check
  – (chat)
• Why we’re here
  – Problem
  – Solution
• Appeal based on strategy
• Direct Ask
• Feedback: Get more info (two way street)
• Reinforce commitment
• Follow Up
Tips

- Make a connection
- Use your personal story
- Stay positive
- Be respectful
- Don’t be cynical about their motives
- Think long term!
South Asians are 4 times more likely to develop cardiovascular disease than the general population.

We’re taking this number to heart.

#SexEdForAll

ONE IN FIVE lawfully present immigrants are uninsured.

When will countries be fully covered?

- Late 2021
- Mid 2022
- Late 2022
- From early 2023

Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit, 27 Jan 2021

Being able to get health care shouldn’t depend on immigration status.

HEALTH POLICY
Policy Actions

**Expanding the Advocacy Network**
The Medicare for All Coalition expands to include academic experts, racial justice organizations, providers, and business owners.

**Advancing the Legislative Process**
Medicare for All gains first-ever hearing in the House Rule Committee. This paves the way to have hearings in the Ways & Means, Energy & Commerce, and Budget Committees.

**Building Up Bill Support in Congress**
H.R. 1384 gains 119 co-sponsors—half the Democratic Caucus, including 13 committee chairs and Assistant House Speaker.

**Problems Window (March 2019-Jan 2020)**

**Messaging & Leading by Example**
Talking points and education materials were disseminated to Members to align messaging and respond to opposition.

Summary:
- An unprecedented problem window opened in the House allowing Medicare for All.
- The inside-outside coordinated policy actions contributed to Medicare for All’s growing legislative support.
POLICY RESOURCES
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Media Training and How to Write an Op-Ed
Thank you for joining us.

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