Crafting Your Ask for Each Hill Meeting

Use this tool below to plan and prepare for each meeting with a congressional office.

CHECKLIST

❑ Determine which of the following Hill Asks most resonate with your state and school communities:
  o Youth Mental Health
  o Child Nutrition
  o Community Safety & Youth Violence Prevention
  o FY22 Reconciliation & FY23 Appropriations

❑ Identify a PTA leader in your delegation to speak on each policy bucket.

❑ Gather relevant data, stories and examples you can share for each topic. A specific story or example from a local PTA is always powerful.

WORKSHEET

Meeting: ________________________________ Date & Time: ________________

Meeting with: ________________________________

1. What key committees is this member on? Does the member sit on any committees of importance to National PTA’s policy platform and Hill Asks?

Tip: See Step 1 on the FLC HDE Checklist for a list of committees of importance. If Member does not sit on any key committees of jurisdiction, review their personal websites for bigger picture issue areas - such as education, health, and criminal justice.
Tip: Reviewing their “Caucus Membership” can also provide some insight. Most members list their caucus affiliations on their websites under “About.” See Senator Boozman’s as an example.

2. What issues does this member care most about? You can usually get this information from each member’s website.

Example: Senator John Boozman (R-AR)
- Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture Committee
- Caucus Membership: Afterschool Caucus, Career/Tech Ed Caucus
- Top Issue Area for PTA advocacy = Child Nutrition
- Secondary Issue Area for PTA advocacy = Youth Mental Health - supporting overall student well-being, whole child/whole family

3. Does the member support any of the bills in our Hill Asks? If yes, make sure to thank them for their support. If no, this might be a focus area for you during your meeting depending on the needs in your school district, community and state.

Click on each bill number below to see if your Member of Congress is a sponsor or cosponsor of the bills in our Hill Asks.
Youth Mental Health

- Increasing Access to Mental Health in Schools Act (S.1811, H.R. 3572)
- Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Act (S.3356, H.R. 6214)
- Safe Schools Improvement Act (S. 2410, H.R. 4402)
- RISE from Trauma Act (S. 2086)
- Family Support Services for Addiction Act (S. 485, H.R. 433)

Child Nutrition

- Universal School Meals Program Act (S.1530, H.R.3115)
- School Food Modernization Act (S. 876, H.R.4379)
- Scratch Cooked Meals for Students Act (H.R. 6608)
- Improving Mental Health and Wellness in Schools Act (S.2930, H.R. 5526)
- Healthy Meal Time Act (H.R.6526)

Community Safety & Youth Violence Prevention

- Break the Cycle of Violence Act (S.2275, H.R. 4118)
- Bipartisan Background Checks Act (H.R. 8)
- Gun Violence Prevention Research Act (S. 281, H.R. 825)
- School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act (H.R. 5428)
- Protecting Our Students in Schools Act (S. 2029, H.R. 3836)
- Keeping All Students Safe Act (S. 1858, H.R. 3474)
- Safe Gun Storage Act of 2021 (S.1825, H.R. 3509)

4. What are the 2 – 3 “asks” you will be making to the Member or their staffer?

Tip: Pick 1 primary bill of most interest to your delegation in each bucket area that the Member has not co-sponsored.
5. What supporting data, stories and examples will you be sharing on each ask?

Examples:

- Youth Mental Health - Ratio of students to school-based mental health professionals in your local school
- Child Nutrition - Number of meals served during SY21/22 or throughout COVID?
- Community Safety - Reflecting on violent crime that may have occurred and impact on whole school community

Questions? Email the National PTA Government Affairs Team at legcon@PTA.org.