



Templates: Contacting Your Representative/Senators

Focus your meeting on thanking them for their support and further educating them on the benefits of chiropractic services to our health system and local communities. Remember to always leave contact information and invite the member and their staff to reach out to you with any questions.

Sample Requests for Meetings

Telephone: (find telephone numbers [here](#) for House, [here](#) for Senate)

Good morning/afternoon/evening.

My name is [FIRST LAST] and I am a doctor of chiropractic in [town/city/state]. I am calling to request a meeting with Representative/Senator [LAST] to discuss chiropractic's role in the country's health care delivery system, including Medicare. Do you have a formal request process, or is there someone I can speak with to schedule a meeting?

E-mail Directly to the Member of Congress through their website (House or Senate):

Dear Representative/Senator [LAST]:

As a constituent and doctor of chiropractic, I would like to schedule a meeting with you to discuss chiropractic's role in the country's health care delivery system, including Medicare. I would appreciate any time you might have to talk with me about [this/these critical issues]. I look forward to your response.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our district and for considering my meeting request.

Sincerely,

[Name/title]

[Full contact information]

E-Mail to Congressional Staff (if you have their email address):

Dear [FIRST]:

As a constituent and doctor of chiropractic, I would like to schedule a meeting with [Representative/Senator] [LAST] to discuss chiropractic's role in the country's health care delivery system, including Medicare. I would appreciate any time the [Representative/Senator], you or other staff might have to talk with me about [this/these critical issues]. I look forward to your response.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our district and for considering my meeting request.

Sincerely,

[Name/title]

[Full contact information]



Advocacy Yays and Nays

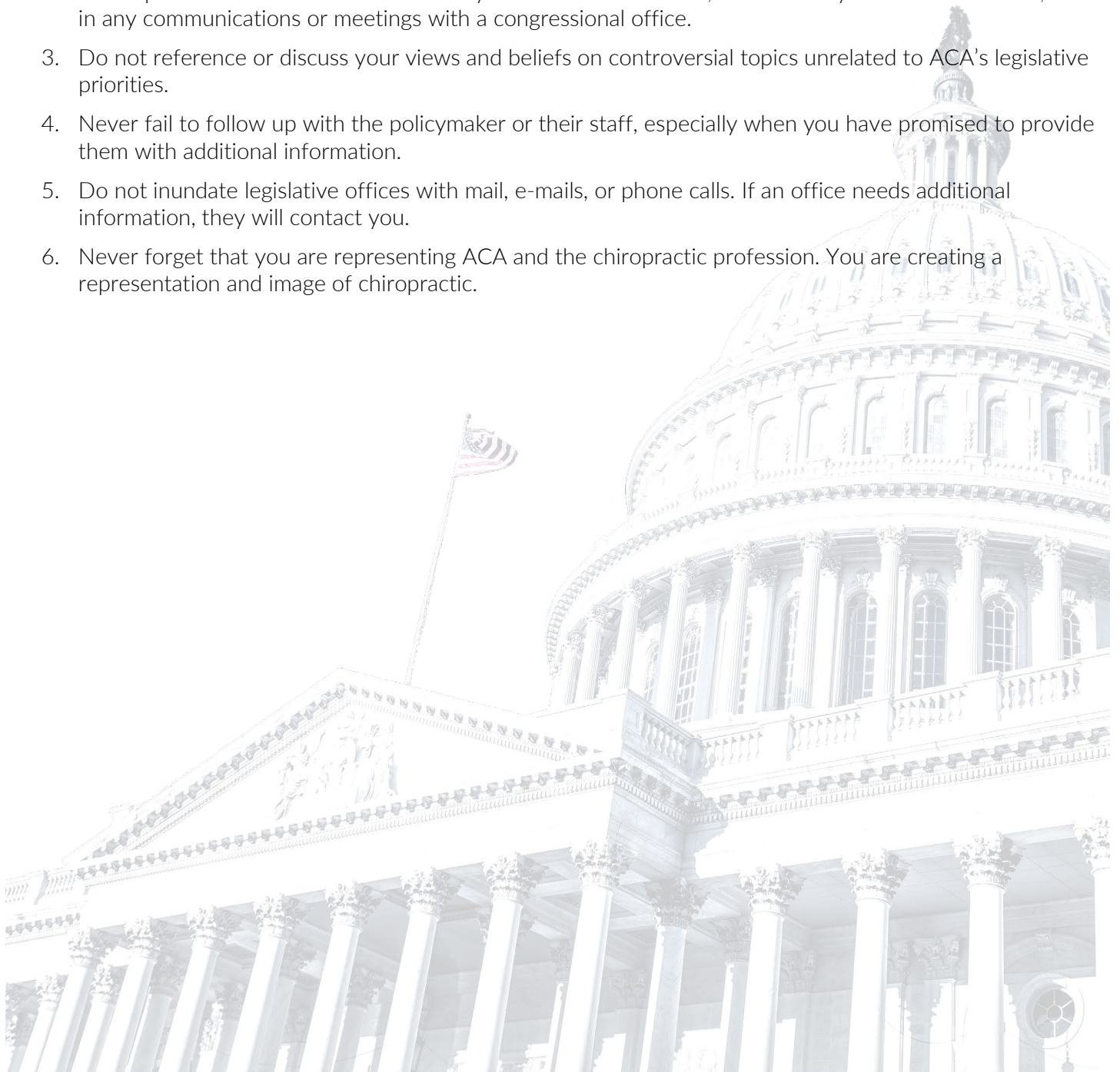
Yays

1. Keep ACA informed when communicating with members of congress. Always copy John Falardeau (jfardeau@acatoday.org) on any communication with a member of congress.
2. Always remain bipartisan and apolitical. Avoid all political discussions and focus on the legislative priorities of ACA.
3. Only contact or meet with your member of congress – or the representative who represents where you practice (or teach or research.) If you are uncertain, contact ACA for guidance.
4. Be prepared! Research the member of congress – know on which committees they serve and always visit the member’s official website and search online for information that might be helpful in establishing a connection. Practice explaining your position to someone unfamiliar with the issue or legislation. Ask for their feedback and answer questions as you would if they were a policymaker.
5. Be informed! Check acatoday.org and ensure that you are well-versed in the issues of importance. If you have any questions, contact ACA.
6. Be polite! Remember that you are representing the entire chiropractic profession. Remain professional and polite, no matter who you speak with – from the intern to the member of congress. Generally, all staff have the ear of the member of congress.
7. Be truthful! Always ensure that the information you provide is accurate and true. If you do not know the answer to a question, that is ok, and always say so instead of attempting to answer or make something up. In fact, offering to follow up with additional information is a great way to establish a relationship. Be sure to contact ACA when this happens so we can help.
8. Be helpful! Offer to become a resource for the member of congress and their staff in the local community. Express interest in being available to answer any questions they may have about chiropractic, public health, or other issues. Share stories or personal experiences you have had in practice and be certain to tie these examples to the issue at hand. (For example: A patient is no longer able to receive or afford chiropractic care once they transition to Medicare, and any harms that might also apply.)
9. Be yourself! Remember, you are a doctor of chiropractic, and your member of congress wants to hear from you about your expertise. They do not expect you to be legislative or political experts, nor should you have to be. If you have any questions, contact ACA to help.



Nays

1. Never argue, threaten, or disrespect a member of congress or their staff. Do not use foul or inappropriate language. NEVER discuss politics or partisan issues. ACA is a bipartisan, member-driven association.
2. Never provide an answer or information you are uncertain about, information you know to be false, or lie in any communications or meetings with a congressional office.
3. Do not reference or discuss your views and beliefs on controversial topics unrelated to ACA's legislative priorities.
4. Never fail to follow up with the policymaker or their staff, especially when you have promised to provide them with additional information.
5. Do not inundate legislative offices with mail, e-mails, or phone calls. If an office needs additional information, they will contact you.
6. Never forget that you are representing ACA and the chiropractic profession. You are creating a representation and image of chiropractic.





Contact and More Information

Primary Contact

Please reach out with any questions about being an ACA advocate.

John Falardeau

Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Advocacy

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703-812-0214

acatoday.org/Advocacy

As the respected voice of the chiropractic profession, ACA's insights and opinions are sought and acted upon in the halls of Congress, at federal regulatory agencies and in the White House. ACA's active and effective advocacy efforts focus on vital issues, including improved access to chiropractic services for patients.

Hands Down Better: Consumer Outreach

ACA's HandsDownBetter.org website and Healthy Living blog provide the public with reliable information about chiropractic care as well as tips on how to avoid injuries while performing everyday activities such as gardening, shopping, working at a desk, participating in sports, and more. Visitors and readers also can learn more about **important federal legislative initiatives to increase patient access to chiropractic services** and can use an online search tool to locate an ACA chiropractor in their area.

About ACA

The American Chiropractic Association (ACA) is the largest professional chiropractic organization in the United States. ACA attracts the most principled and accomplished chiropractors, who understand that it takes more to be called an ACA chiropractor.

We are leading our profession in the most constructive and far-reaching ways -- by working hand in hand with other health care professionals, by lobbying for pro-chiropractic legislation and policies, by supporting meaningful research and by using that research to inform our treatment practices.

We also provide professional and educational opportunities for all our members and are committed to being a positive and unifying force for the practice of modern chiropractic.

acatoday.org/join