



2019 ACNM Capitol Hill Day

FAQ's and Logistics

What is a "Capitol Hill Visit "?

Our/your objective is to start/build on relationships with policy makers and let them know what's important to midwifery as practiced by Certified Nurse-Midwives and Certified Midwives.

Why do professional associations host visits to Capitol Hill?

To broaden our reach on Capitol Hill. By bringing our membership to Washington, we will build relationships, raise our profile with policy makers, and position the value of midwifery care as a resource when our legislators are considering legislation that affects all of us. You're helping the profession, your practice and the women, individuals and families you serve.

How do I set up meetings?

Volunteers from ACNM's National Government Affairs Committee do it all for you. You just show up and talk about the profession and the value of midwifery to our nation's healthcare system. We do encourage beginning your conversations by asking what the legislator or staffer knows about midwives and midwifery services.

What should I wear to my legislative meetings?

The recommended dress for meetings is business, and don't forget to wear comfortable shoes.

Am I meeting with legislative staff or members of Congress?

Both. Much of this depends on the legislative schedule, committee schedules, votes being taken, etc. Understand that staff plays a critical role in policy making. Our priorities for scheduling your meetings will be to arrange meetings with these members of Congress (meetings with key staff will be arranged if the member is unavailable):

1. Your home state Senators
2. Your home district U.S. Representative

How many meetings will I have?

You will likely have about two or three meetings starting around 10:30AM and ending by 12:30PM.

What am I going to talk about?

We will have briefing materials for you in advance, educating you on the ACNM policy agenda including improving access and reducing barriers to the midwifery model of care, improving access to hospital privileges for midwives, the importance of investing in midwifery education and training programs, and growing the midwifery workforce in the United States.

We suggest you limit your discussion to the one or two items from the agenda that are most important to you as well as discuss your practice.

I don't know much about D.C. or legislation, what if they ask me a question in the meeting?

Don't sweat it! This is a perfect time to tell them that you will follow up with additional information about the question at hand. You can also refer them to ACNM's Government Affairs Director, Amy Kohl, whose business card will be in the leave behind folder.

What are the Goals for My Meeting?

Short Term Goals

- Educate the Member of Congress on Midwifery and the Midwifery Model of Care as practiced by Certified Nurse-Midwives and Certified Midwives.
- Become a resource on midwifery and women's health issues for Members of Congress and their staffs.

Long-Term Goals

- Create an ally who will be a champion and defender of our organization and profession in Congress.
- Create a positive image of our organization and profession with Members of Congress and provide them an opportunity to connect with constituents back home.