NCMS LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAYS

Tips for a Successful Legislative Visit

Stay on Message.
- Share personal experience or data that demonstrates how a certain policy will affect your practice and your community.
- If asked a question about the other side of the argument, answer the question as completely as you can, giving your particular perspective.

Keep it brief.
- If you are requesting action, communicate that up front.
- Because legislators’ time is limited, have a plan to budget your time appropriately.

Frame the issue as it affects the legislator.
- Your case is stronger if you present the issue as the legislator sees it.
- Recognize that you seldom get everything you ask for and that compromise is important.

Work with staff.
- Be on time and let the receptionist know you’re there.
- Never view the staff as a “second resort.” Legislators depend heavily on them.

Say thank you.
- Send your legislator a thank you note via mail and/or e-mail.
- Follow up promptly with any information you have promised to provide legislators or staff.