



American Heart Association®

You're the Cure

TALKING POINTS

Produce Prescriptions

- Lack of access to healthy foods is a major risk factor for heart disease, the leading cause of death in our community.
- A Produce Prescription allows healthcare providers to "prescribe" fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables to patients who are food insecure and have a diet-related chronic illness.
- With 1 in 8 of our neighbors going hungry, we can't wait.

Ask your lawmaker: Will you support a \$500k appropriation for Produce Prescriptions to help our neighbors with the greatest need access heart-healthy foods?

Medicaid Cessation (HB 506)

- The Medicaid population is more than twice as likely to be smokers than those on private insurance.
- Georgia spends \$699 million annually on Medicaid costs related to tobacco use.
- If just 1% of the Medicaid population quit smoking, Georgia would save \$38 million the following year.
- Quitting is hard, but comprehensive cessation support can help.

Ask your lawmaker: Will you support HB 506 to help remove barriers to quitting tobacco?

REMINDERS:

You do not need to be an expert. Share these key facts and your personal story.

If a lawmaker asks a question you cannot answer, add that to your meeting report back form and let them know the AHA will follow-up with them.

After you complete your meeting, tell us how it went by snapping this QR code or filling out the form in your folder:



Questions? Contact Laura Bracci (404) 512-0762 or Aline Stone (504-606-0834).



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LEGISLATIVE MEETING TIP SHEET

BEFORE THE MEETING:

- Gather in your group and assign roles. Your meetings will likely be short, so you want to know who will cover which topic—Who will share their story? Who will make the ask? Who will submit the meeting report?

DURING THE MEETING:

- Introduce yourself to the lawmaker and indicate where you live (on what street in his/her district?)
- Share your story to set up the ask.
- Make the asks - let your lawmaker know why you are visiting.
 - **Deliver the Produce Prescription and Medicaid Cessation asks.**
 - Make it personal—share your expertise and why these issues matter to you.
 - **Ask your lawmaker for their support on these issues.**
- Thank them for their time, exchange information, and give them the leave behind.
- Ask for a photo and post it to social media with #HeartAtTheCapitol.

AFTER THE MEETING:

- Compare group notes and have someone complete the meeting reports. In your meeting forms, let AHA staff know if any of your lawmakers need more information - provide details when possible.
- Stay in touch with your lawmaker:
 - Follow up with a thank you note.
 - Make an appointment in your calendar to call the legislator again in a few weeks and plan to check in periodically.
 - If a new piece of information or research is released, send it along to the legislator.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

- Whether you speak to a legislator or a staff member, it will make an impact. Remember to always be friendly and thank them for taking the time to speak with you.
- You can persuade your legislator by presenting facts and resources provided by the AHA.
- Sharing your story can be the most convincing part of the conversation—it makes the issue real to people who may otherwise not have a vested interest.

IF YOUR LAWMAKER IS UNAVAILABLE:

Using the notecard in your folder, leave a note with a message, such as: Dear [Representative/Senator Last Name], I'm a constituent living in [Your Town]. I'm sorry I missed you today, but I'd like to ask for your support for a \$500k appropriation for Produce Prescriptions and HB 506 to help people quit tobacco use. You can reach me at [###-###-####] if you have any questions. Thank you, [Your Name]