

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
- Let your lawmaker know why you are visiting (make the “asks”)
 - **Deliver the Smart Heart Act ask**
 - **Deliver the T-CPR ask**
 - Make it personal—share your own expertise and why these issues matter to you.
 - **Ask your member for their support.**
- Thank them for their time, exchange information, and give them the leave behind.
- Ask for a photo opportunity and post to social media using the #HeartattheCapitol hashtag.

AFTER THE MEETING:

- Compare group notes and assign someone to your meeting report.
- Let Heart Association staff know if your lawmaker needs more information (provide details if you can).
- Stay in touch with your lawmaker:
 - Follow up with a thank-you letter.
 - 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 them.

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 Association.
- 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.

What to do if your lawmaker is unavailable:

- Leave a note for your lawmaker!
 - Using the notecard in your folder, leave a note with a message like this: *Dear [Representative or Senator Name], I'm a constituent living in Brookhaven. I'm sorry I missed you today, but I'd like to ask for your support for policies that will advance prevention and early intervention in heart and brain health. You can reach me at 504-606-0834 if you have any questions. Thank you, Aline Stone*
- Leave the leave behind sheets and your note card with your contact information.

Questions? Contact Emma Kate Burns (937-938-0176) or Aline Stone (504-606-0834)

TALKING POINTS

ASK: Support the Smart Heart Act (SB 278)

- **Sudden cardiac arrest is a real and urgent risk for kids.** Each year, more than 23,000 children experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital.
- **Schools are the nucleus of our communities, especially in rural areas.** Parents and community members are often at schools for plays, concerts, or athletic events.
- **Preparation saves lives.** Immediate CPR can double or triple survival, and access to an AED can increase survival rates to 70%—but only if there's a clear plan in place.
- **The Smart Heart Act ensures schools are ready to act.** The bill requires schools to have a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan, CPR-trained staff, and access to AEDs so everyone knows what to do in a cardiac emergency.

ASK: Support Telecommunicator-CPR

- **During cardiac arrest, survival decreases by 10% every minute without CPR.** This makes action in every minute that passes essential to survival.
- **Telecommunicator CPR equips 911 operators to guide callers through CPR until help arrives.** This helps turn bystanders into lifesavers in the moments that matter most.
- **T-CPR doubles the chances of bystander intervention during cardiac arrest.** This training helps people take action even if they've never been trained or are unsure what to do
- **Requiring this training will help more people receive lifesaving CPR and survive.** This bill requires all telecommunicators to receive training in T-CPR, along with annual continuing education.

Let us know how your meeting went by snapping this QR code or filling out the form in your folder and emailing it to emmakate.burns@heart.org:



REMEMBER — 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, make a note of it and let them know you will follow-up with them.