



DOS AND DON'TS IN YOUR MEETING

- DO be on time. If you are going to be late, call a RESOLVE staff person (on Staff contact list) and we will update the Congressional/Senate office.
- DO be prepared. Review all of the information in the packets, including any information about your representative or senator and which committees they sit on.
- DO build a bridge: compliment the senator, representative, or staffer by saying you are familiar with the lawmaker's track record of pro-family legislation and actions – and this is perfect because we are pro-family, too.
- DON'T get distracted! It is tempting to talk about other issues important to you, but it will dilute your message about infertility. Stay on the topic! You are here representing RESOLVE and talking about the legislation that we are supporting.
- DO show respect for the staffer and DON'T be disappointed that you are not meeting with the actual representative or senator. Meetings with staffers are often more important than meeting the elected official and provide an opportunity to form a relationship. Staffers research the issues, make recommendations to their bosses and push the agenda forward. It is critical that you make a strong impression about the importance of these initiatives with the staffer!
- DO stay positive and DON'T get defensive if you don't like the questions you are asked. While this is very personal to you, members and their staffers are just trying to gather information and determine which issues should be prioritized among the many issues presented to them daily - and they may know nothing about this topic. Stick to the facts and stay calm, but feel free to show your passion for our cause.
- DON'T try to answer questions you don't know the answers to; just note the question, and convey that you will get back to them with a response. PLEASE EMAIL RESOLVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU PROMISE TO DELIVER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. We will help you follow up.
- DO leave the leave behind hand-outs with the staffer, which will include contact information for RESOLVE.
- DO ask for the business cards of the people you met with. Confirm whether they prefer follow up by phone or email.
- DON'T forget to follow up within two weeks of Advocacy Day, or perhaps on the train ride home or while waiting for your plane. Keep following up regularly, until you have an answer from the office.
- DO jot down highlights of your meeting afterwards so RESOLVE can utilize the information for further advocacy efforts. Use the Evaluation Form to report back on your meetings.
- DO use terms like "Pro-Family", "infertility is a disease," and "family building" when discussing infertility and the wish to have children.
- DON'T be apologetic about wanting to have children. You didn't CHOOSE to have infertility!