

Play-By-Play of Your Lobby Visit

- 1) Introduce yourselves (name, hometown, and relevant identity—i.e. faith leader, student, teacher, LGBTQ parent, profession, etc.) and Americans United.
- 2) State your purpose: “We’re here today to support the Do No Harm Act”
- 3) Explain what the Do No Harm Act does.
- 4) Explain why you support the Do No Harm Act.
- 5) Make an ask, such as “Please co-sponsor the Do No Harm Act.”
- 6) Thank them for their time.
- 7) Complete your Lobby Visit Report Form on the AdvocacyDay app.

DO:

Know your legislator.

On Lobby Day, you will have more than one meeting. Before each one check the co-sponsor list in the Lobby Day folder you’ll get at the Welcome Program to see if your legislator is a co-sponsor of the Do No Harm Act. A co-sponsor is someone who has already agreed to support the bill. Tailor your arguments accordingly.

Get personal.

Bring up personal, local, or community examples. Personal stories help legislators and staffers better remember you and your requests. Anyone can repeat talking points, but only you can share your story. Tell them why the Do No Harm Act is important to you, your family, and your community; whether you ever faced discrimination; and how it made you feel.

Stay on message.

There are hundreds of issues before Congress right now that are important to Americans United and to all of us personally. The power of this Lobby Day is that we are all lobbying with one, unified message. We want to build momentum for the Do No Harm Act. It can be tempting to veer off-topic, but it will dilute our effectiveness. Stay the course!

DON'T:

Don’t be afraid to say, “I don’t know.”

You may encounter a question from a legislator or staffer that you cannot answer. Never make up an answer or tell them something that isn’t true. It’s much better to say that you don’t know and that you’ll get back to them later. Then you can email AU staff at lobbyday@au.org and we will help you answer their question. It’s a great excuse for you to get back in touch after the visit.

Don’t be disappointed if you’re meeting with a staffer.

You can make a difference meeting with a staffer. Capitol Hill staff have a vital role in shaping policy and they provide important information to lawmakers.

Don’t argue.

It’s ok if a legislator doesn’t agree with us and makes that clear. Thank them for listening to you and express your hope that they will continue to review the documents we’ve provided and reconsider their stance. Always be respectful. We want legislators to maintain a positive view of Americans United and our members—even if we disagree on this issue, there might be future opportunities where we have common ground.