



U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking Legislative Visit Tips

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

- **Schedule the meeting.**
 - Call your Member's local office to request a meeting.
 - Make sure to tell them how many others would like to attend.
 - If the member is unavailable, ask to meet with staff who work on human trafficking issues.
 - You may have to send an email or fill out a form.
 - Don't be discouraged if you need to follow-up for a response.
- **Be knowledgeable about the person you are visiting.**
 - Party affiliation.
 - Term in office.
 - Position on the issue you are discussing.
 - What committees is she/he on.
 - Thank the member for other similar bills the Member has supported.
- **Know your bill.**
 - Know the bill name and number.
 - Where it is in the process.
 - The names of the sponsors and co-sponsors.
 - Other legislators supporting similar legislation.
- **Establish goals and objectives of the meeting.**
 - Remember this is one step in the process of establishing an on-going relationship.
 - Be clear about your "ask" – Will he/she:
 - Support/oppose the bill?
 - Co-sponsor the bill?
 - Move it forward in the process? (ex. Committee to floor)
 - Help to get a fellow legislator(s) to support the bill?
- **Get your script together.**
 - Assign roles.
 - Remember the objective of the meeting.
 - Develop and tailor your talking points.

AT YOUR VISIT

- **Arrive early and as a group.**
 - Remember that you are not the only people meeting with the legislator and staff that day. Arriving early may give you extra time and always makes you look more professional.
 - Late group members should politely wait outside the office rather than interrupt a meeting in progress.
- **Introduce yourselves.**
 - Briefly introduce yourselves individually and be sure to include your organization's name and where you are from and any relationship to the legislator.
 - Have your group leader explain that you represent an important voice in your legislator's district—U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking.

Sample Introduction to Legislator or Staff Member

Hello Mr./Ms. _____. I'd like to first thank you for taking the time to meet with us today.

My name is _____. Our group represents U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking. During our time with you today, we'd like to discuss our concerns about and proposals for addressing Human Trafficking.

Ask each of the members of the group to introduce herself.

- **Keep your presentation simple.**
 - **Create your talking points in advance.** Know your facts and have your information easily at hand. Stay away from using acronyms.
 - **Tell powerful stories.** Stories are one of the most effective ways to leave a lasting impact on legislators and congressional staff. A powerful story creates an emotional connection to an issue and links it to deeper values and personal experience.
 - **Seek concrete commitments.** Come prepared to ask your legislator to take specific actions in support of your issues (e.g., introduce or cosponsor legislation, vote in favor or against a specific bill, communicate support to House or Senate leadership or head of a specific committee). Seek clear yes or no responses to your "asks", and be prepared to follow up.
 - **Stay positive.** If a legislator or their staff ask questions you cannot answer that day, feel free to let them know that you could send them that information.
 - **Stay polite.** You might disagree with a legislator or staffer; if so, make your point and move on. You want to inform them of your position and make them feel comfortable going to you as a source of information in their district.
 - **Listen well.** Let them ask questions. You may find new opportunities to interact with the legislator.

AFTER YOUR VISIT

- Remember to get the staffers' business cards.
- Consider asking them to take a photo with your group.
- Send a thank you note and include any follow-up information that you promised during the visit.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LEGISLATORS

- [Link](#) to contact information for women in the Senate
- [Link](#) to contact information for all members of the 114th Congress



US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

Legislative Visits—Spring 2016

Talking Points

Senate Legislation

S 1968: Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015

- **Sponsor:** Senator Richard Blumenthal [D] Connecticut
- **Status:** Introduced
- **Co-Sponsors:**
 - [Edward “Ed” Markey \[D-MA\]](#)
 - [Alan “Al” Franken \[D-MN\]](#)
 - [Kirsten Gillibrand \[D-NY\]](#)
- **Summary:** A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require certain companies to disclose information describing any measures the company has taken to identify and address conditions of forced labor, slavery, human trafficking, and the worst forms of child labor within the company's supply chains.
- **Talking Points:**
 - Premise of the Bill
 - Congress can help hold corporations accountable for any forced or child labor in their production.
 - Businesses should be required to publicly disclose their efforts to eliminate human trafficking and child labor in their business operations and supply chains.
 - Consumers should be able to make informed decisions about what they purchase.
 - What would this proposed legislation accomplish?
 - Require companies with a minimum of \$100 million in worldwide gross receipts annually to report transparently to the Securities and Exchange Commission and on their websites about their efforts to address slavery and child labor within their business operations, including supply chain and labor management;
 - Create competition to improve practices to end slavery by providing the public and the market with information about companies that are – and that are not – taking real steps to address slavery;
 - Help businesses by establishing clear federal transparency requirements that put all businesses on an even playing field, so they do not have to comply with a patchwork of state laws in an area of clear federal jurisdiction;
 - Would not require companies to take any specific action to combat slavery within their business. This is a pure transparency measure.

- Why should your office support this legislation?
 - Almost 21 million people are victims of forced labour – 11.4 million women and girls and 9.5 million men and boys.
 - Forced labor generates US\$ 150 billion in illegal profits per year. Domestic work, agriculture, construction, manufacturing, and entertainment are among the sectors most concerned.
 - Women's concentration in informal labor sectors without legal protections suggests that women face labor trafficking much more than is reported and that women are just as invisible within labor trafficking as they are within labor.
 - Women comprise the vast majority of workers in the garment and textile industries. Reports of sweatshops detail long hours; low pay; poor lighting and ventilation; and erratic health, safety, and labor inspections are common. In some instances, workers are far from home, dependent upon their employer for housing, food, and transportation.
 - According to the U.S. Department of Labor, forced labor is prevalent in the production, cultivation, and harvesting of a range of agricultural products, including cotton, sugarcane, rice, cocoa, tobacco, beans, corn, peanuts, rubber, sesame, sunflowers and wheat. The ILO reports that women represent more than 70% of the agricultural workforce in South Asia and 59% in sub-Saharan Africa.
 - Many goods Americans use every day have passed through the hands of a slave. The current legislative and regulatory framework to prevent such goods from entering the US is inadequate; the U.S. legal prohibition on importation of slave-made goods has resulted in only 40 enforcement actions on record in 80 years.
 - Passage of this provision would help fight human trafficking, forced labor, slavery, and the worst forms of child labor and would demonstrate the U.S. commitment to freedom. The law would raise awareness of an issue that is being largely ignored by companies doing business in parts of the world where slavery is prevalent.

- **Ask: Please co-sponsor S. 1968**

House Legislation

[HR 3226: Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015](#)

- **Sponsor:** Rep. Carolyn Maloney [D] NY 12th
- **Status:** Introduced
- **Co-Sponsors:**
 - [Christopher "Chris" Smith \[R-NJ4\]](#)
 - [Blumenauer, Earl Blumenauer \[D-OR3\]](#)
 - [Leonard Lance \[R-NJ7\]](#)
 - [Eleanor Norton \[D-DC0\]](#)
 - [Raúl Grijalva \[D-AZ3\]](#)
 - [Betty McCollum \[D-MN4\]](#)
 - [Ted Lieu \[D-CA33\]](#)

- [Zoe Lofgren \[D-CA19\]](#)
 - [Michael Capuano \[D-MA7\]](#)
 - [Kyrsten Sinema \[D-AZ9\]](#)
 - [Keith Ellison \[D-MN5\]](#)
 - [Julia Brownley \[D-CA26\]](#)
 - [Nydia Velázquez \[D-NY7\]](#)
 - [David Cicilline \[D-RI1\]](#)
- **Summary:** The House and Senate bills are identical. See notes above.
 - **Talking Points:** The house and Senate bills are identical. See notes above.
 - **Ask: Please co-sponsor H.R. 3226**



Legislative Visits Spring 2016 Report Back Form

This form is VERY important to tracking progress and following up with congressional offices. Please be sure to submit a "report back" for each congressional meeting.

**Please email or fax the information to Ann Scholz, SSND
ascholz@lcwr.org or 301-587-4575.**

Your Name _____ State/District _____

Congressional office you met with: _____ Meeting Time: _____

1. Congressional staff in the meeting (names): _____

2. Was the Member of Congress present? _____

3. Total Number of Other Meeting Participants: _____

NAME	ORGANIZATION	CITY

(*List additional attendees on the back of this sheet. It is very important that we know how many people attended each meeting.)

4. What specific issues did you discuss?

5. What specifically did you ask the senator or representative to do, and what was their response to each ask?

6. In addition to thanking the Member of Congress for the meeting, what type of follow up activities are you planning (i.e. answering questions raised in the meeting, organizing a site visit)? We strongly recommend following up, and taking advantage of the Congressional recesses to meet with members or to host members for site visits of your programs.