

# COMMUNICATING



with *Congress*

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## Meet with Members During Recess

At certain times of the year, including the entire month of August, Congress takes time off from business in Washington and members return to their districts. Recess periods provide an excellent chance to meet with your representatives on your “home turf” and give them a more personal explanation of why your issue is important.

Request the appointment through the district office before the recess starts. Let the office know what the major issues are, what activity you’d like to organize, and who else (and how many) will be there.

Here are some suggestions for activities that you can schedule during a recess period that will allow you to meet with your representative and educate them about our issues:

**Take them on a Facility Tour.** It is a good idea to show your representative in person your facility and how you and your staff care for residents. Let them experience firsthand the importance and meaning of the site, and how it affects your area of concern. Visit our website for specific instructions at <http://www.ahcancal.org/advocacy/Pages/default.aspx> and click on **“How to guide for facility tours.”**

**Schedule an Event.** Invite your representative to take part in something that allows you to demonstrate what your organization and its cause are all about. Whatever you plan, let the representative know that they are welcome to participate and interact with members of your group.

**Contact the Local Media.** Arrange for them to be present while you are meeting with your Representative. They will be able to record the representative’s interest in your concerns. It would be a good idea to arrange this in conjunction with your Member’s office.

**Go to the District Office.** Your representative may already have an overloaded schedule before you can arrange an event to meet with them. If that is the case, try to schedule an appointment at the district office instead. Since the representative will not be able to experience things firsthand, try to compensate by having talking points and materials available for them to consider.

For More Information on **“How to Conduct A Facility Tour,”** please contact AHCA/NCAL Staff as they are ready to help you!

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**Questions?** Contact our Legislative Staff at 202-898-2816



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