

Spring 2019: NAHMA MEMBER HILL VISIT OVERVIEW

Preparation

- Tailor NAHMA's sample talking points and policy platform to your own advocacy needs
- Come prepared with a message that relates affordable housing to real people in the legislator's district
- Dress for a business meeting, but remember to wear comfortable shoes

Meeting Logistics

- Remember to relax during meetings; begin by introducing yourself and thanking the staff for their time
- NAHMA staff may be available to join for the meetings – please arrange this ahead of time
- The legislators themselves are unlikely to join the meeting
- Staffers in the meetings have varying levels of familiarity with affordable housing issues, but always appreciate hearing from constituents; avoid using acronyms and use personal stories to make an impact
- NAHMA can provide packets with information for you to leave behind with the staffers at your discretion; feel free to bring your own materials or business cards to add
- Do NOT bring gifts for the legislative offices (unless they do not violate the Congressional gifts restrictions)
- If you are running late, give the office a quick call to let them know
- Plan to mail the legislative offices a quick thank you note or email (see NAHMA Sample) after the meeting
- Your outreach matters – Take a moment to tell us about your visits or let us know if you joined an advocacy challenge

Transportation Logistics

- Some public transportation options are available from the Fairmont hotel, otherwise taxi / uber / lyft
- Plan in 40-45 minutes for travel from Fairmont Hotel and getting through light security the Hill
- Option to leave luggage at the Fairmont front desk during the meetings
- Meetings in the Senate generally last 20-25 minutes; meetings in the House last 10-15 minutes
- The House and Senate Office Buildings are spread out across Capitol Hill and can be located on googlemaps; touchscreen maps and security officers in building lobbies can assist with office locations
- If you have visits in various buildings on the Hill, plan at least 15 minutes between meetings

Options for in between meetings

- Lunch options available in Senate / House Office Buildings, main Capitol building, and the surrounding area
- Tours of the Capitol are available, but may take upwards of 60 - 90 minutes – passes should be arranged online and in advance

Need day-of assistance on the Hill?

Contact NAHMA Government Affairs at jbilowich@nahma.org / 419-569-7173 or lkeys@nahma.org / 601-918-1890