

Making Congressional Appointments

1. In most cases, appointments will be with staff, not the Representative or Senator from your state. Since staff handles specific issues, it is an effective use of your time to speak to the specialist with knowledge of programs and budgets in the area of campus public safety.
2. Contact your Representatives in the manner they recommend. PLEASE CONTACT AT LEAST SIX WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING DATE. By going to the website house.gov you can search by zip code for the name of your Representative. Members' web pages have a section called "Contact." In many cases you may e-mail your request for a meeting directly to the website. You may also wish to call the contact phone number to ask how to set up a meeting. Many offices ask for a FAX with details of the meeting. For the Senate, the website senate.gov has a section where you can choose your state. You can redirect yourself to the Senators websites with a click, where contact information is available.
3. Try to make your appointments in the morning. Congress is in session at noon, and you will have a better chance of meeting your Representative in the morning as well as staff.
4. Be flexible about time, and expect some appointments to be changed at the last minute.
5. It is appropriate to bring a camera and ask that a photo be taken with your Representative.

Your FAX or e-mail should include the following information:

Your name and title at your college or university, and the town in which it is located.

The day and time you wish to have a meeting.

The subjects you wish to address.

Our priorities this year are:

Funding for the newly authorized grant program at the US Department of Education, included in the Higher Education Act Amendments of 2008.

Passage of the National Center for Campus Public Safety (the House has approved this measure unanimously so Representatives should be thanked. Senators should be asked to contact Chairman Leahy of the Judiciary Committee in support of the Center).

Equity in death benefits for sworn officers at both private and public institutions. The benefits are currently limited to officers at public institutions.

A matching grant program for campus public safety through the US Department of Justice. The Senate Judiciary Committee approved this matching program at an authorized level of \$50 million in the last Congress. There has been no movement in the current Congress.

If you need assistance, please let us know. IACLEA will provide a room on Capitol Hill during the day for you which will have packets of information available for you to share at your meetings, IACLEA staff to assist with questions, and a communication base.

Groups of Board Members will be sent to prearranged meetings with key legislators. These legislators have championed the priorities identified above. The targeted meetings will be arranged by staff and meetings will be held with:

Representative John Conyers of the House Judiciary Committee

Senator Patrick Leahy of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Representative Dave Obey of the House Appropriations Committee

Senator Tom Harkin of the Senate Appropriations Committee

Senator Dianne Feinstein of the Judiciary Committee

Representative Jo Bonner of the House Appropriations Committee

Senator Judd Greg of the Senate Appropriations Committee.