Congressional Advocacy:
MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD ON CAPITOL HILL
Your Washington Visit

• We have scheduled a meeting with your Senator’s and/or Representative’s office.

• In most cases, you will meet with a staff member.
Getting to the Hill

• Buses depart from the Maryland Ballroom Portico at the Gaylord.
  • See schedule in your packet

• Staff on the bus can help direct you to your appointment.
• Walk to the Capitol Hill Hotel after your last meeting to return your Visit Report Form.

• Return buses to the Gaylord will depart from the Capitol Hill Hotel.

200 C St. SE
Know Your Targets

Congress
(2 chambers)

Senate
(100 members)

House of Representatives
(435 voting members)
The Legislative Process

- **Introduction of Bill (Senate and/or House)**
- **Committee Action**
- **Floor Vote**
  - In both chambers
- **President’s Signature**
  - (or veto)
Your Voice Matters

• Your voice makes a difference in the development and funding of vital programs.

• Members of Congress and their staffs want to hear from you – their bosses.
Lobbying Tools

• Washington office visits

• District office visits

• Emails and letters – personalized are better

• Phone calls
Advocating to Your Member of Congress

- Review the member bio, the key messages, and factsheets
- Practice on a friend

At the meeting:
- Turn off cell phones
- Be on time
- Identify yourself
- Be concise – use the key messages sheet as your guide
- Provide leave-behind materials at the end
What to Expect

Every meeting is important
• You may not get to meet with a representative or senator
• The meeting may start late or end early
• Do not assume staff or members know about registries

Your story matters!
Key Messages

1. The role and importance of registrars and registries.

2. Existing central registries are the best avenue for surveillance – not “specialty population registries.”

3. Increased funding for registries would reduce cancer incidence and increase early detection.
MESSAGE #1
Importance of Registries and the Registrar

• Cancer registries and registrars are key to cancer prevention, treatment, and research.

• Cancer surveillance is federally mandated and has been since 1971.

• Cancer data flows from hospitals to central and national registries.

• Cancer surveillance impacts cancer control and screening efforts in our state.
MESSAGE #2
Existing central registries are the best avenue for surveillance – not “specialty population registries”

• Central cancer registries report detailed information on ALL cancers that can be used for specialized research.

• Specialty population registries duplicate the work of existing central cancer registries.
MESSAGE #3
Increased funding for registries

• Federal agencies fund and support central cancer registries. These funds are vital to report on cancer surveillance nationally and locally.

• Increased funding is needed to reduce cancer incidence and increase early detection.

• While the president’s proposed budget calls for large cuts specific to cancer registry funding, we need you to reject those cuts and support increased funding for cancer registry programs.

• We are already working on a tight budget.
Ultimately - THE ASK

Reject the president’s proposed large budget cuts specific to cancer registry programs and support increased funding for CDC, NIH, and the National Cancer Institute’s cancer registry program efforts.
Leave behind materials at the end of the meeting
Social Media

Ask to take a photo and post it on Facebook and Twitter!

Cancer Registrars
@NCRAnews

Thank you, Senator Washington, for meeting with me to discuss the importance of cancer registries!
#NCRAConf2017

Retweets: 149  |  Favorites: 145
Follow-up

• Complete and turn-in visit report forms at the Capitol Hill Hotel.
  (200 C Street SE)

• Write brief thank you notes (copy will be provided).

• Refreshments and thank you cards provided at Capitol Hill Hotel.
Thank you for making our voice heard!