

A Short Guide to Engaging Public Officials

Building and maintaining relationships with members of Congress is an important part of the LIVESTRONG Foundation's advocacy work. **YOU** can help advance our mission and the fight against cancer. Use this guide to assist your outreach.

Step 1: Identify your members of Congress. Find your U.S. Representative here: www.house.gov/representatives/find/ and your two U.S. Senators here: <http://www.senate.gov>.

Step 2: Call the office and request a meeting with healthcare staff (of a member if they are available) at a district or state office. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss funding for cancer research and the LIVESTRONG Foundation. Most meetings will last 20-30 minutes.

Step 3: Follow these important steps during the meeting:

Briefly introduce yourself. Emphasize that you are a constituent and a supporter of the LIVESTRONG Foundation. Tell your story – how has cancer impacted you or loved ones.

Explain the need for increased research and prevention funding for the fight against cancer, such as:

- Long-term support for cancer research and prevention has led to better ways to prevent, detect and treat cancer.
- But even with progress, so much more needs to be done.
- The lifetime risk of cancer is 1 in 2 for men and 1 in 3 for women.

Make the “ask.”

- Federal funding is critical to advancing the fight against cancer.
- For Fiscal Year 2015, we are requesting:
 - \$5.26 billion for the National Cancer Institute (NCI)
 - \$510 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Cancer Prevention and Control

Step 4: Express appreciation for the meeting and their attention to these important issues. If there are unanswered questions, don't forget to follow up.

Step 5: Tell LIVESTRONG about the meeting! Send feedback or questions via email to grassroots@livestrong.org or on Twitter [@LIVESTRONGAdv](https://twitter.com/LIVESTRONGAdv).

Your outreach **DOES** make a difference.
Thank you for being an advocate in the fight against cancer.