

Virtual Visit Preparation

Please take some time to complete the exercises below in preparation for meeting with your senator's staff.

RESEARCH YOUR SENATOR

Prior to your meeting, you'll want to do some research on the senator with whom you'll be meeting. A good place to start is your senator's official website. There are many useful pieces of information that you could look for: the committee your senator is on, the issues he/she focuses on and anything you might have in common with them (school, faith, etc.). Below, write down what you find, including 1) something your senator has done recently for which you can thank him/her and 2) anything you have in common with your senator.

READ ABOUT THE BILL

Another important part of preparation is to review the background materials about the bill you'll be discussing. Read the background materials provided by CRS and then write down 1) any questions you have about the bill and 2) what you think is most important to highlight about the bill during the meeting with your senator.

REFLECT ON A STORY YOU MIGHT SHARE

Finally, think about a personal story you might share with your senator that shows the impact that this bill would have on people around the world. It might be a story about how COVID has impacted international students who attend your school; it could also be a story about how CRS is supporting communities around the world during the pandemic. Write some notes about a story you might share below.

CONSIDER YOUR ROLE

During the training for your virtual visit, your state's delegation will be dividing up roles for the meeting. Prior to the training, consider which role(s) might interest you. Do you want to have a speaking role? Would you like to be the meeting facilitator, keeping the meeting on track and moving? Would you like to talk about the bill? Would you be willing to share a personal story about the impact of the bill? Write any notes about your desired role below.