

KEY FOLLOW-UP AFTER MEETING WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

You should ALWAYS follow up with elected officials, their staff, or candidates after a meeting!

- Send a note thanking the legislator/staff/candidate and briefly restating what you discussed in your meeting.
- Include any follow-up information that was promised.
- For Members of Congress, it is best to send the letter by email -- the email can usually be sent to the Health Legislative Assistant, who will then pass along the email or attachment to the Member of Congress.
- Include pictures and any relevant stories or articles from the visit to remind the visitor about your organization.
- Provide feedback on your meeting to your state association and NACHC so that they may adjust their lobbying strategies if needed.

If you are unable to schedule an in-person meeting, phone calls and emails or letters can also be effective communication tools, particularly if you have an immediate need. Remember, the best way an elected official will get to know your health center and understand the work you do in your community is by visiting your health center. Building a relationship takes time, so be sure to take the time to continually educate and communicate with all of your health center's elected officials.