

Minnesota Catholic Conference

2021 CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITOL

Legislative Visit Guide for District Leaders



Thank you for volunteering to meet with your legislators as part of this year's Catholics at the Capitol!

Before the visit

Prepare. Read through this document to understand what to expect, read over our one-pagers and Bill Guide Sheet to get grounded in our legislative priorities, and become familiar with your legislators by performing a quick search for their bios (leg.mn.gov).

Prioritize. Your time with legislators will go by fast, and you will likely be sharing that time with other constituents in your district. The Feedback Sheet has been provided to record legislative responses as well as to help you keep the meeting on pace and enable your group to make the most of the time.

Practice and Plan. Practice telling your story using the MCC talking points and making the ask for your legislators to support or oppose the bills we have featured. Have your water, coffee, and Feedback Sheet ready in advance of the meeting.

Post on social media. Boost the impact of Catholics at the Capitol by posting about your upcoming visits. Tag your legislators and us (@MNCatholicConf) and use the hashtags #mnleg and #CatCap2021 to get more eyes on our issues.

"Arrive" Early and Be Patient. Turn your computer on, find your Zoom meeting link, and get settled at least 10 minutes before the scheduled meeting time. Attempt to join the meeting at least five minutes before the scheduled meeting time. **Note:** Some of your meetings may begin a few minutes after the scheduled starting time due to the legislator's busy schedule. That is okay! Do not be discouraged if your legislator opens the meeting late, as they may have been held up by a previous meeting or have had technical difficulties of their own.

During the visit

Be polite and confident. When the meeting starts, thank your legislators for their time. But remember, it is your time as well! Legislators are better able to serve your

district when they know what's important to the people in their district. They understand this and will likely do what they can to make you feel comfortable sharing your thoughts.

Introduce yourself and your parish. Let your legislators know your name, your home parish, and that you're a constituent. Make sure you mention that you and your fellow constituents are there with the Catholics at the Capitol event.

Lead the Conversation. After introductions, use the Feedback Sheet as your guide to progress through the meeting.

In a group visit, try to make sure that everyone with a personal connection to a bill or bills has a chance to share.

If the legislator gets the meeting off track or changes the subject, simply bring the issues back up and re-direct the conversation.

Make the asks. Ask your legislators to support or oppose MCC's three CatCap priorities.

Note: The meeting does not need to be stiff and formal. You can converse and banter with your legislators. They will do their best to put you and your group at ease. Don't feel pressured to get every talking point out verbatim, as long as your group gets the main points out and keeps the conversation focused on our specific asks.

Take notes. This is particularly important in situations where your legislators have ideas about what we can do to help a bill get passed, or how to change hearts and minds about proposals that we oppose.

After the visit

Boost the impact. Follow up on any posts you made (remember to tag your legislators and @MNCatholicConf) and let folks know how your meeting went!

Follow up with MCC. We'd love to hear how it went, and what information you learned. Please email your Feedback Sheet, questions from legislators, and ideas from legislators to Ryan Hamilton, rhamilton@mncatholic.org.

Follow up with your legislators.

Feel free to continue the conversation and connection, especially if there were things you can do to garner your legislator's support for our positions.

Join us again!