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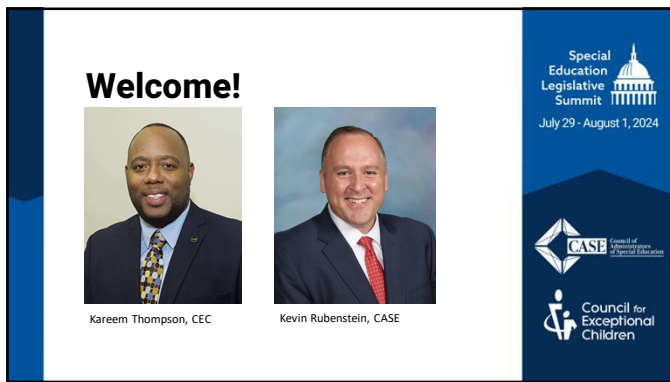
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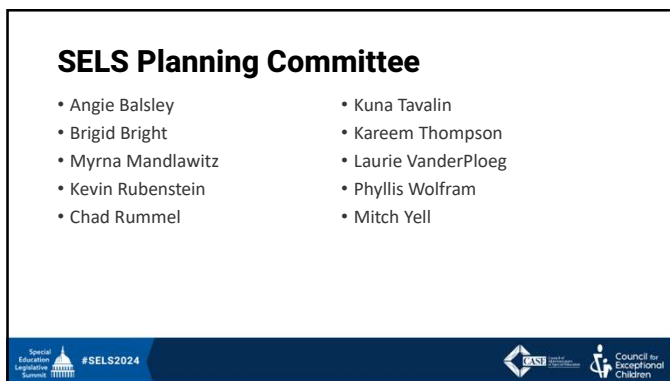
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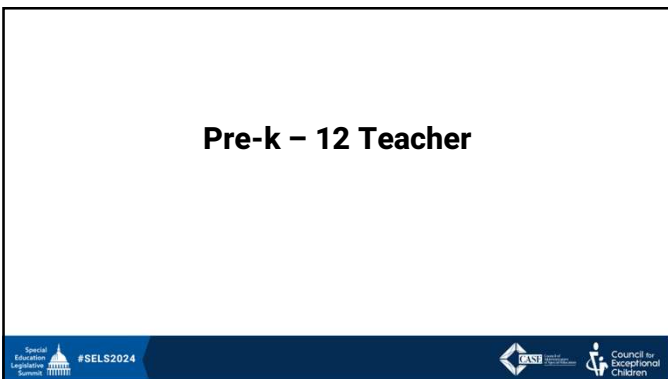
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**Higher Ed**

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**School Psychologist**

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**Administrators**

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**Doctoral Student**



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**Undergraduate Students**



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**First Time Participant**



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## Participated in the Summit Before



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## WIFI



Network: Westin\_Conference

Password: westinalex



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## Connect & Share with CEC



@CECMembership



@cec\_headquarters



/CECHQ



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**Connect & Share with CASE**

 @casecec

 @case.cec

 /CASECEC

Special Education Legislative Summit #SELS2024

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**Let's Go Learn**  
*Embrace Precision!*

Special Education Legislative Summit #SELS2024

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 **eLuma**

Special Education Legislative Summit #SELS2024

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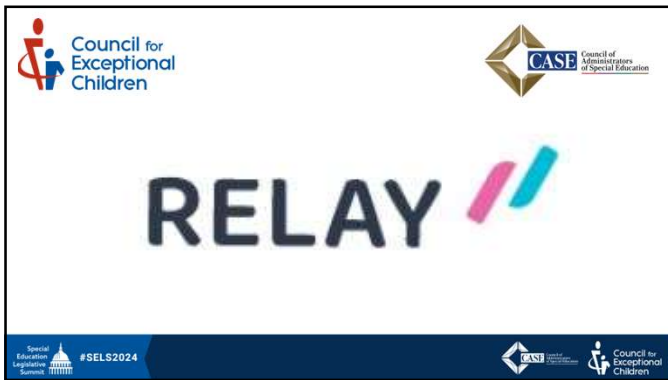
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## Raise the Bar: Lead the World

ACHIEVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE	BOLDLY IMPROVE LEARNING CONDITIONS	CREATE PATHWAYS FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accelerate learning for every student</li> <li>Deliver a comprehensive and rigorous education for every student</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminate the educator shortage for every school</li> <li>Invest in every student's mental health and well being</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure every student has a pathway to college and a career</li> <li>Provide every student with a pathway to multilingualism</li> </ul>

Raise the Bar Booklet

25 OSERS | OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

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## OSERS Mission and Priorities

**TO IMPROVE EARLY CHILDHOOD, EDUCATION, AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES AND RAISE EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, THEIR FAMILIES, THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND THE NATION**

**LEADING FOR EQUITABLE OUTCOMES**

<b>PREPARED WORKFORCE</b> Remedy immediate staffing shortages and effectively deploy diverse and equipped educators, providers, and support personnel	<b>EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES</b> Amplify, promote, and actively drive effective learning experiences, instruction, intervention, services, and support	<b>ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY</b> Accelerate usage of inclusive materials and technology for in-person and remote learning and employment	<b>STAKEHOLDERS</b> Engage families, individuals with disabilities, educators, providers, policy makers, advocates, and communities to identify successes, barriers, and needs	<b>STRATEGIC RESOURCES</b> Invest in data-aligned coordinated activities that advance Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)
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## OSERS Focus for the Remainder of 2024

- ▶ Leading for Equitable Outcomes
  - Evidence-based inclusionary practices (including AT, AI, UDL, and school schedules)
  - Military-connected children with disabilities
  - Cross-ED and agency collaboration
  - Data analysis
- ▶ Retention of special educators, related service providers, EI specialists, and VR counselors
- ▶ Increase access to, and improve implementation of, Medicaid to provide school-based mental health services
- ▶ Pathways to College and Career
  - WIOA State Plans
  - Partnerships
  - Expect, Engage, and Empower (3E) Transition Initiative

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## OSERS Accomplishments

### LEADING FOR EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

- **Technical Assistance**
  - *Myths and Facts on Assistive Technology* (OSERS and OET), released with National Education Technology Plan
  - Part C Inclusion policy statement (HHS and ED)
  - Guidance on Discipline and General Supervision
- **Medicaid Expansion/Implementation Efforts** to increase funding to districts to provide school-based medical and mental health services
- **Special education and VR Preparation Grants** (recruitment and preparation of diverse candidates)
- **Improved use and expenditure of VR program funds** resulting from RSA technical assistance, guidance, and monitoring (e.g., increased non-Federal share needed for match of Federal funds)
- **Increased State VR agency compliance** with 15% Pre-ETS reservation requirement to 75% of VR agencies
- **Funded 20 DIF model demonstration projects** (Pathways to Partnerships) that create systemic approaches to transition services for children and youth with disabilities leading to competitive integrated employment (CIE)

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## Consider Intersecting Laws/Regulations

IDEA ESSA ESEA WIOA Section 504 Rehab Act ADA

Federal requirements impacting children, youth, and adults with disabilities (and their families)

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## Designing a System for Improved Outcomes

Students graduate prepared for college and career

EB Instruction in Rigorous Grade-Level Standards

Specially Designed Instruction

School to Post-School Transition Planning and Services

\*Reinforced by families, communities, and employers

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## Model Your Non-Negotiables

- ▶ Presume competence (and least dangerous assumption)
- ▶ Proceed with a sense of urgency and understanding of time limitations for children
- ▶ Lead (don't manage) towards the vision
- ▶ Identify and address ableism and discrimination in everyday actions

(continued...)

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## Model Your Non-Negotiables (cont.)

- ▶ Seek to locate, understand, and use relevant data to identify successes and needs
- ▶ Comprehensively use universal design in planning and provision of services
  - Access and progress in grade-level state standards
  - Ensure accessibility and seamless provision of materials, technology, and accommodations
  - Instruction is vital for learning – demonstrate the importance
  - Ensure that special education services are supplemental, and not a replacement for general education standards
- ▶ Be accountable for actions and messaging (verbal and nonverbal)

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## Importance of Building an Inclusive Community

- ▶ In 2021, there were:
  - **741,510** children with disabilities ages 3-5
  - **6,611,306** children and youth with disabilities ages 6-21
  - State Assessments
    - **67.8% - 75.9%** of students served under IDEA in each of grades 3 through 8 and high school participated in a math assessment (24.1% - 32.2% did not participate)
    - **65.2% - 75.4%** of students served under IDEA in each of grades 3 through 8 and high school participated in a reading assessment (24.6% - 34.8% did not participate)
  - **75.4%** of youth with disabilities exited by graduating with a regular high school diploma, while 14.7% dropped out

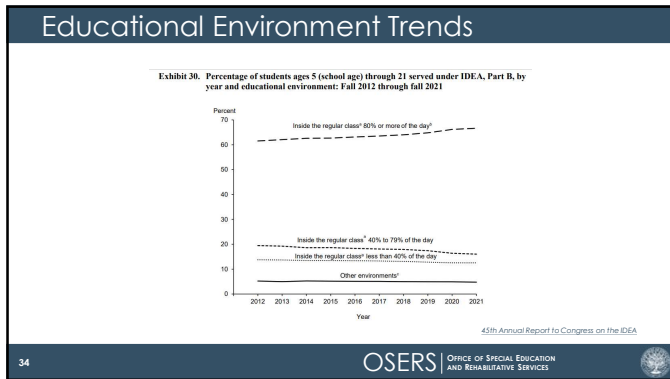


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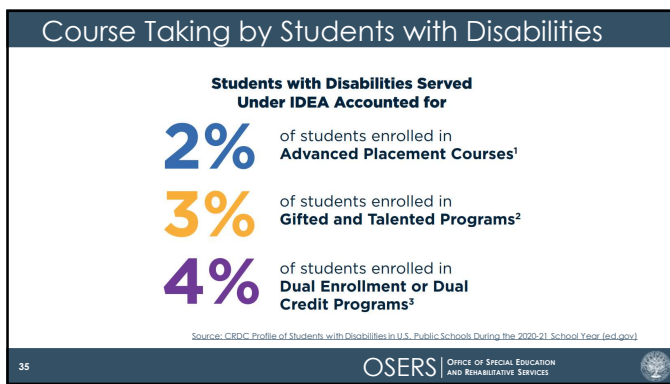
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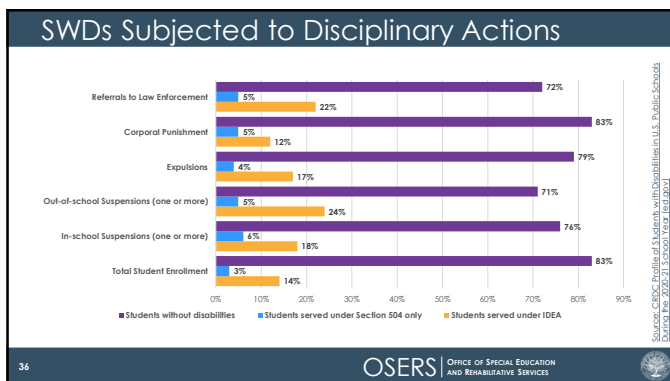
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## Build a System of Persistent Equities

### System

- ▶ Diverse and prepared personnel
- ▶ Access to services, including mental health
- ▶ High expectations supported by evidence-based instruction and intervention
- ▶ Timely and responsive evaluation/eligibility decisions and IEPs
- ▶ Family engagement used to celebrate success and be responsive to student need
- ▶ Inclusive placements, with supports that proactively address positive behavior, communication, and learning

### Impact to Children

- ▶ Access to rigorous curriculum and instruction
  - ▶ Increased graduation rates
  - ▶ Increased post-school outcomes



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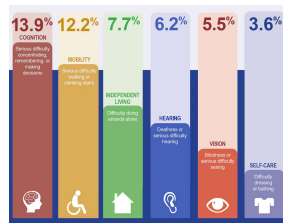
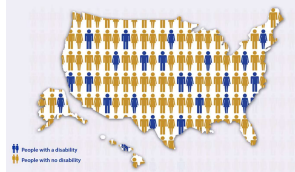
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## Inclusive Communities Impact Each of Us

More than **1 in 4** adults in the United States have some type of disability (28.7%)



CDC Disability Impacts All Infographic

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## Levers for Change

- ▶ Vision – Identification of the Desired Change(s)
- ▶ Stakeholder Engagement
  - Platform of influence (e.g., bully pulpit and public advocacy)
  - Agreements (informal and formal)
- ▶ Monitoring and Accountability
- ▶ Funding and Grants
- ▶ Professional Development and Training
- ▶ Technical Assistance and "Dear Colleague Letters"
- ▶ Legislation and Regulatory Changes (federal, state, local)
- ▶ Judicial Decisions
- ▶ Executive Actions
- ▶ Intra-Agency and Inter-Agency Collaboration

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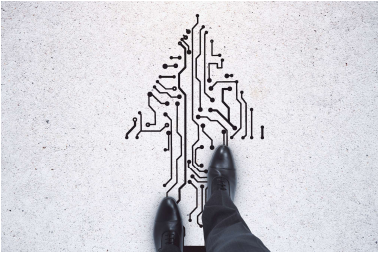
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### Leaders Guide Change



*"If you are a leader, you're leading people somewhere else – somewhere that's not here."*

*That's the job.*


*If the group is staying in the same place, they may need a manager, but not a leader.*

*Leadership is all about change."*

Sources: The Work of Leaders by Shaw, Scullard, Kulkarni, and Davis

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### Leading for Equitable Outcomes

Students with disabilities are **entitled** to evidence-based instruction provided by content experts in grade-level core standards and the supplemental special education and related services needed for them to access and make progress in those standards

**How does your leadership ensure this is occurring?**

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### Our Role, Our Work, Our Children


**"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."**

*Maya Angelou*

How will we, together, build upon those change levers and amplify or accelerate the improvement efforts needed to ensure that every student with a disability not only has equitable access to high quality instruction and learning, but that they leave the preK-12+ education system fully prepared for further education, training, and independent living (that aligns with their goals and dreams)?

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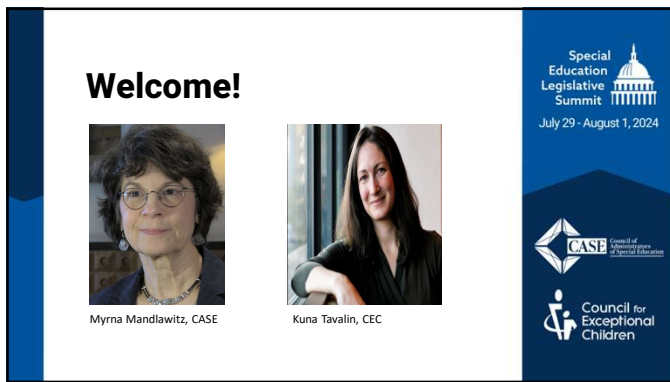
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## Agenda

- Some useful terminology
- Status of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Appropriations
- Prognostications!



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## Before We Get Started, Some Helpful Terminology

- **Authorization:** Enacting a program into existence (IDEA).
- **Appropriation:** Funding for authorized programs (IDEA funding!).
- **Discretionary Spending:** Government functions funded through annual appropriations (Defense & NDD).
- **Mandatory Spending:** "Entitlement" or nondiscretionary spending; no annual spending ceiling.
- **Federal Fiscal Year:** Oct. 1 – Sept. 30.



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## ....and More Terminology!

- **Mark-up:** Subcommittee/committee meets to debate, amend, vote on a bill before it moves to the floor.
- **Continuing Resolution:** Stop-gap funding bill to keep government operating....while Congress figures out appropriations!
- **Lame Duck:** An official at the end of a term (or ineffective leader).
- **Recess:** Work period when Members are in their home states/districts.
- **October Surprise:** An unforeseen event that impacts the elections.



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## Typical Appropriations Cycle



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## Status of FY 2025 Appropriations

- House
  - Appropriations Committee has passed all 12 bills
    - Passed Labor, Health and Human Services, Education (Labor-H) appropriations bill on July 10
  - 4 bills have been passed on the floor.
    - Q: Will any other bills be passed before elections?
- Senate
  - Just started marking up bills in subcommittees.
  - No action on Labor-H.

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## What Congress is talking about?

### Youth mental health:

CARE for Student Mental Health Act.  
New Surgeon General Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health.

### Teacher shortages:

Mixed bag, depending on who you're asking.  
Some discussion on teacher residency programs.

### Additional hot topics

Literacy, chronic absenteeism, artificial intelligence  
Polarizing issues: Parental rights, school choice, Title IX, Trans students (sports, restrooms)

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## Impact of Elections on Congressional Activity

- Reminder: All House members and 1/3 of Senators up for election.
- Productivity tends to slow as elections get closer.
  - Congress out of session all of August and October up to Election Day.
  - Lame duck session?
- Partisanship and political divide tend to increase.
- Slim majorities in House/Senate...real election consequences.
  - Power of "majority."

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## With Those Caveats....Outlook

- No major authorizing initiatives will be passed (probably very few "minor" ones either!).
- FY 2025 appropriations probably not be completed at least until lame duck...and maybe not until new Congress is seated.
- Bottom line: It's really a political show til November 6!

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## Questions?



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Special  
Education  
Legislative  
Summit



July 29 - August 1, 2024



CASE  
Council of  
Administrators  
of Special Education



Council for  
Exceptional  
Children

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**Let's GoLearn**  
*Embrace Precision!*



CASE  
Council of  
Administrators  
of Special Education

Endorsed  
Product



Let's Start a Conversation!

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Special  
Education  
Legislative  
Summit



July 29 - August 1, 2024



CASE  
Council of  
Administrators  
of Special Education



Council for  
Exceptional  
Children

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**CFC** CONGRESSIONAL MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR  
*A More Perfect Union*

Relationship Building with Lawmakers:  
Making it Personal through Story Telling

July 29, 2024

Presentation for

 Council for  
Exceptional  
Children

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**CFC** CONGRESSIONAL MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR  
*A More Perfect Union*



Julie M. Strandlie

Georgetown Law, JD  
University of Florida, BA

**Professional**  
Senate Budget Committee  
University of Florida  
American Bar Association  
National Employment Lawyers Association  
Strandlie Advocacy, LLC

**Official**  
Fairfax County Planning Commission  
Virginia Governor's Board on Service & Volunteerism

**Volunteer**  
Scouting  
PTA President  
HOA/Civic Association Board  
Legal Aid Advocacy

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**Agenda/Learning Outcomes**

- Congressional environment
- Advocacy tools to build relationships with lawmakers
- How to tell your story to lawmakers
- Comments from Members and staff
- In-State Interaction Tools

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***"Politics is too important to be left to politicians."***

- Charles DeGaulle



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PARIS 2024



**Camryn Rogers, Canadian Olympic Team**

2023 World Champion Hammer Throw

Profession: Special Education Advocate



[University of California, Berkeley](#), graduate  
she earned two academic degrees and  
completed for the California Golden Bears

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**Congressional Environment**

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"Most members of Congress care about what their constituents think?"  
(Rasmussen National Survey)

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11%

"Congress cares what constituents think."  
- Public Opinion

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"Most members of Congress care about what their constituents think?"

(Rasmussen National Survey)

"Please rate how important these job aspects are for your effectiveness as a Representative"

(Congressional Management Foundation Survey of U.S. House of Representatives Members)

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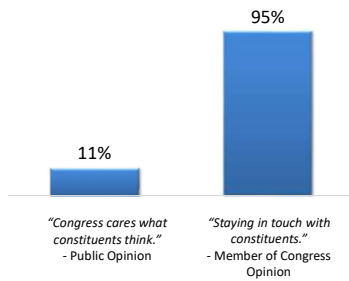
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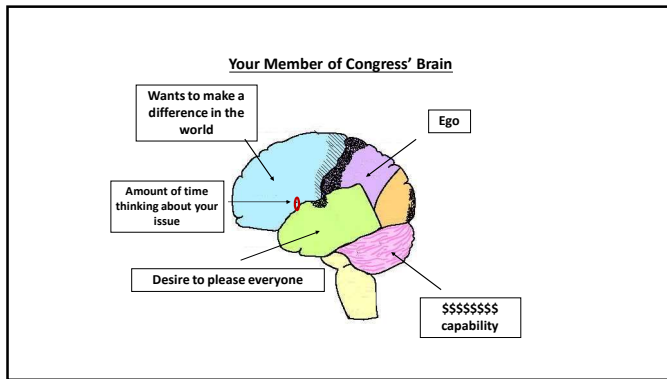
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<p><b>Sample House Member Schedule—March 6, 2012</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM–9:30 AM</b> National Women, Infants, and Children's Association</p> <p><b>10:00 AM–12:00 PM</b> Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Hearing</p> <p><b>10:30 AM–12:00 PM</b> Bipartisan Classified National Security Briefing</p> <p><b>12:00 PM–1:00 PM</b> Caucus/Conference Meeting with Democratic/Republican Colleagues</p> <p><b>12:45 PM–1:15 PM</b> Edie Smith, Local County WIC (Women, Infant, Children) Program Manager</p> <p><b>1:15 PM–1:45 PM</b> Representatives from The American Public Affairs Committee (APAC)</p>	 <p>Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) speaking at the American Bar Association breakfast. Meeting topics included medical-legal partnerships.</p> 
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<b>Sample House Member Schedule—March 6, 2012</b>	
<b>1:30 PM–2:00 PM</b>	Kevin Jones, Local County Supervisor
<b>2:00 PM–2:30 PM</b>	Bob Ellis, Solutions for Progress Nonprofit
<b>2:30 PM–3:00 PM</b>	U.S. Army/Local Officials
<b>3:00 PM–4:00 PM</b>	Fundraising Call Time—Party HQ
<b>3:00 PM–3:30 PM</b>	FYI: Army Corps of Engineers, Regional District
<b>3:30 PM–4:00 PM</b>	Organic Farming Research Foundation
<b>4:30 PM–5:00 PM</b>	Vanessa Garcia, Local Supervisor
<b>5:00 PM–6:00 PM</b>	Local County Representatives/Supervisors
<b>6:30 PM–9:30 PM</b>	FYI: American Council for Capital Formation
Dinner Discussion	

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COMMITTEES		LEGISLATION & RECORDS	ART & ARTIFACTS	ABOUT THE SENATE
i)	Tuesday, Jul 30, 2024 9:30 AM – SH-216	Armed Services	Hearings to examine the findings and recommendations of the Commission on the National Defense Strategy.	
	Tuesday, Jul 30, 2024 10:00 AM – SD-215	Finance	Hearings to examine tax tools for local economic development.	
	Tuesday, Jul 30, 2024 10:00 AM – SD-419	Foreign Relations	Hearings to examine strategic competition with the PRC, focusing on assessing U.S. competitiveness beyond the Indo-Pacific.	
it	Tuesday, Jul 30, 2024 10:00 AM – SD-G50	Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	A joint hearing to examine the security failures leading to the assassination attempt on former President Trump.	
	Tuesday, Jul 30, 2024 10:00 AM – SR-253	Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion	Hearings to examine rural export opportunities, focusing on enabling rural businesses to grow at home while competing abroad.	
	Tuesday, Jul 30, 2024 2:30 PM – SD-419	Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation	Hearings to examine the future of Europe.	
	Tuesday, Jul 30, 2024 2:30 PM – SD-538	Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Policy	Hearings to examine banning noncompete agreements, focusing on benefits for workers, businesses, and the economy.	

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SENATORS	COMMITTEES	LEGISLATION & RECORDS	ART & ARTIFACTS	ABOUT THE SENATE
<b>Hearings &amp; Meetings</b>				
Displayed below are brief descriptions of each committee meeting and hearing scheduled to take place today, and on days thereafter. The time and location of each meeting/hearing is identified.				
History <span>33M</span>				
Show <span>5</span> entries <span>Search:</span>				
<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>				
S: Capitol (Senate side) SR: Russell Building SD: Dirksen Building SH: Hart Building SVC: Capitol Visitor Center (Senate side)				
Key to Building Abbreviations Map of Capitol Hill				
<b>Have a Question about Senate Committees?</b>				
Frequently Asked Questions about Committees provides information about the committee system, researching committee documents, finding committee hearings, and much more.				
Date	Time-Room	Committee	Topic	
Wednesday, Jul 31, 2024	10:00 AM – SD-366	Energy and Natural Resources	Business meeting to consider S.4753, to reform leasing, permitting, and judicial review for certain energy and minerals projects.	
Wednesday, Jul 31, 2024	10:00 AM – SD-538	Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	Hearings to examine long-term economic benefits and impacts from Federal Infrastructure and public transportation investment.	
Wednesday, Jul 31, 2024	10:00 AM – SD-562	Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	Business meeting to consider S.4736, to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2026 through 2029; S.4763, to amend the Public Health Service Act to research <a href="#">traumatic brain injury</a> ; <a href="#">H.R. 2750</a> <a href="#">Hearings to confirm</a> S.4755, to reauthorize traumatic brain injury programs and other pending calendar business.	
Wednesday, Jul 31, 2024	10:00 AM – SD-608	Budget	Hearings to examine the future of electric vehicles.	
Wednesday, Jul 31, 2024	10:00 AM – SR-253	Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Business meeting to consider S.275, to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding; S.406, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to evaluate and consider the impact of the telecommunications network equipment supply chain on the deployment of universal service; S.1030, to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety standard with respect to rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in electric mobility devices.	

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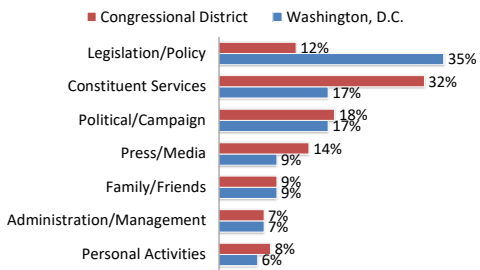
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### Member Time Spent on Major Activities



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*"I have told paid lobbyists for years that any lobbyist worth his salt will concentrate on getting my constituents to tell me what they think...not what s/he thinks. S/He better spend time getting them to write me because that's what I listen to."*

- Republican Senator

77

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### Who & What Does Congress Listen To?

- Expert Constituents
- Passionate Constituents
- Angry Constituents
- Influential Constituents
- Conscience



78

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### Case Study: How to Raise a Hedgehog



79

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### Advocacy Tools to Build Relationships with Lawmakers – In-Person & Remotely

80

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*"The most effective way to influence a lawmaker is for a constituent to talk to a legislator about how the policy will affect the person or a particular group."*

- House Democrat

81

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Congressional Survey Question

If your Member/Senator has not already arrived at a firm decision on an issue,

how much influence might the following **advocacy strategies** directed to your office have on their decision?

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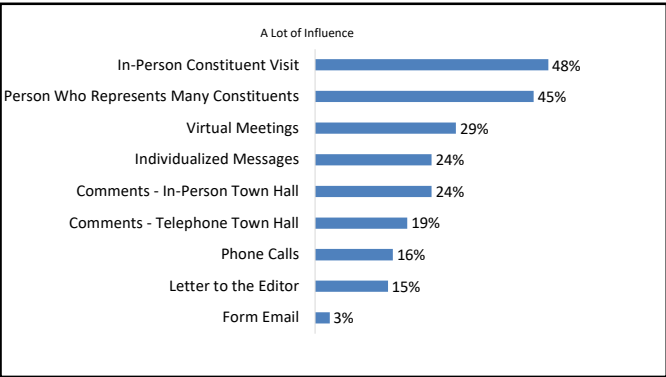
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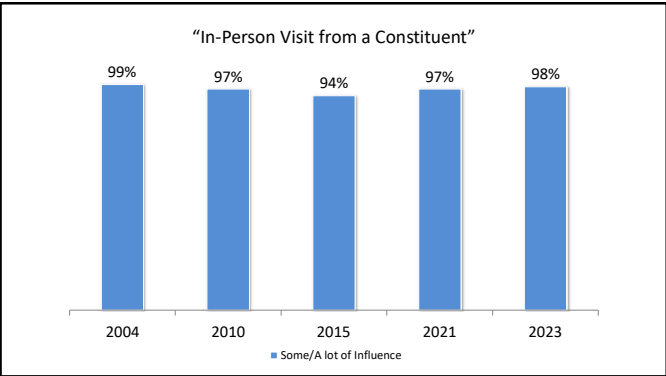
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### Congressional Staff Survey

If your Member has not arrived at a firm decision on an issue, approximately how **many email messages from people who represent many constituents** (e.g., organization leader, elected official, business owner) does it take for your office to consider taking the action requested?

85

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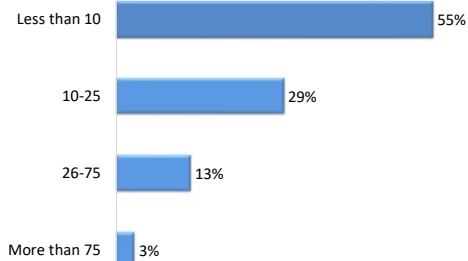
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### Build Relationships with Staff



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## Build Relationships with Staff

Average Age of House  
Legislative Assistant

27



88

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*"My boss rarely acts if there isn't an **impact on his district**.  
Show me a connection as to how your issue directly affects  
our constituents."*

—House Legislative Assistant

89

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## Congressional Staff Survey

"How **helpful is it** for messages from constituents include the following?"

90

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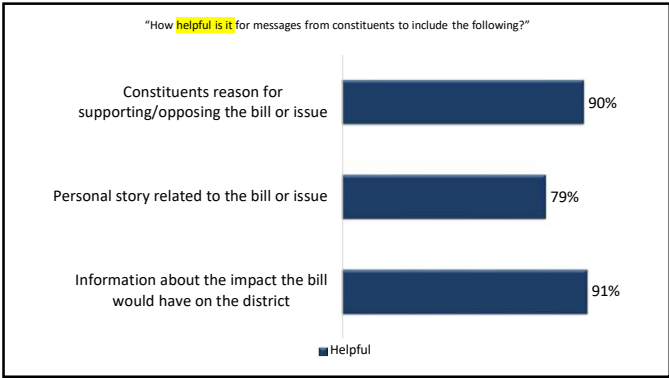
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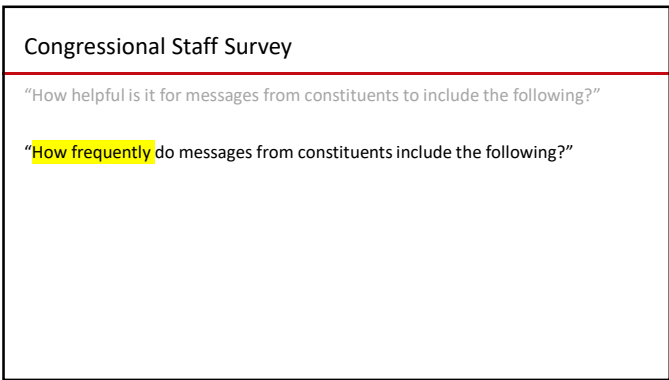
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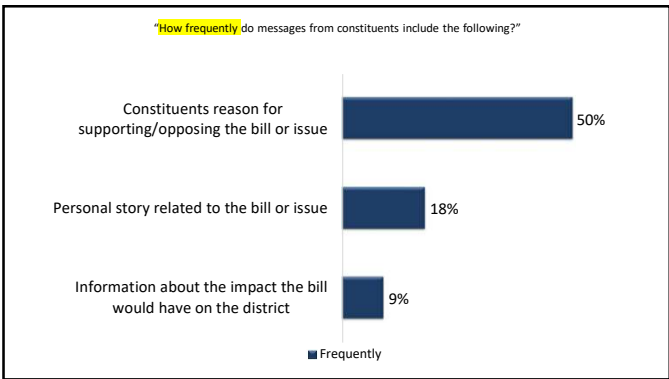
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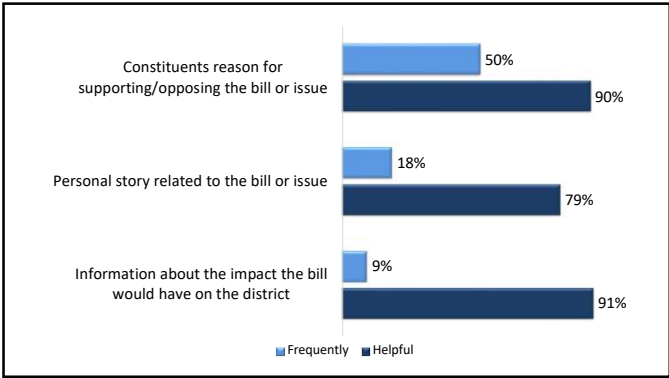
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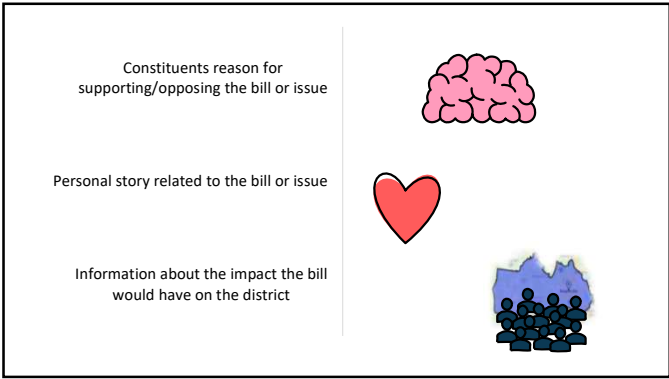
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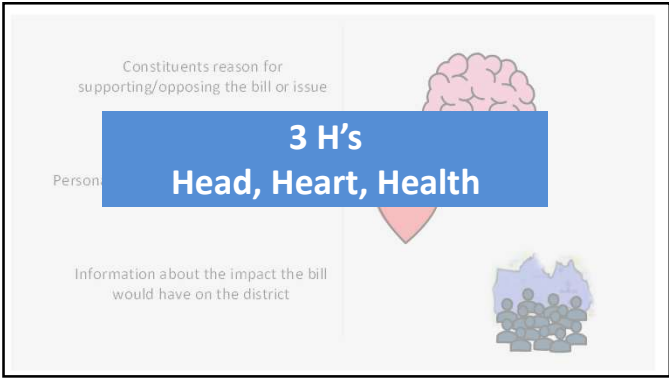
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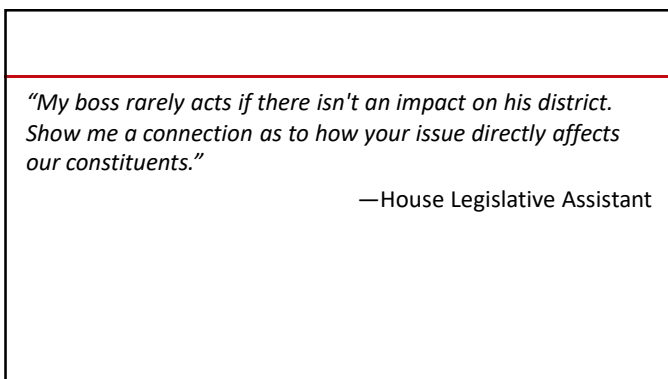
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Congressional Staff Survey

When making a recommendation to your boss on a vote or co-sponsorship, how important are the following in your decision-making process?

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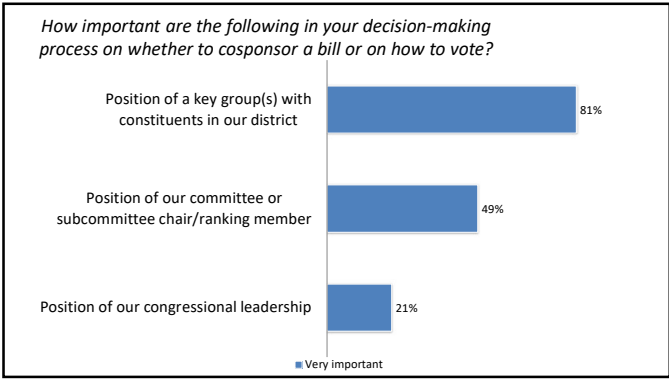
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Congressional Staff Survey

How frequently do you experience the following in constituent meetings?

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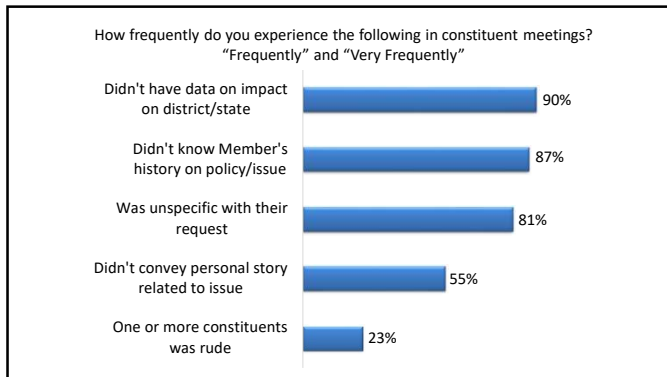
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### Preparation & Execution for Your Meeting

- Write the script
- Recruit and Prepare the Cast
- Lead/Narrator
- Storyteller/Local Impact
- Subject Matter Expert
- Stage Crew

104

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- ✓Constituent
- ✓Know Member Bill/Policy Priorities
- ✓Provide Data, ideally tied to State/District
- ✓Personal Story
- ✓Specific Ask: cosponsor
- ✓Follow Up

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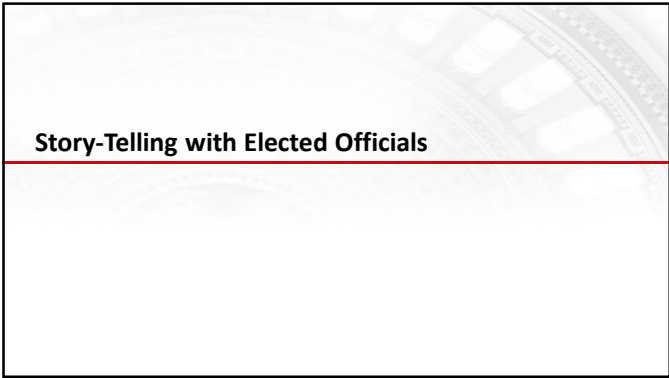
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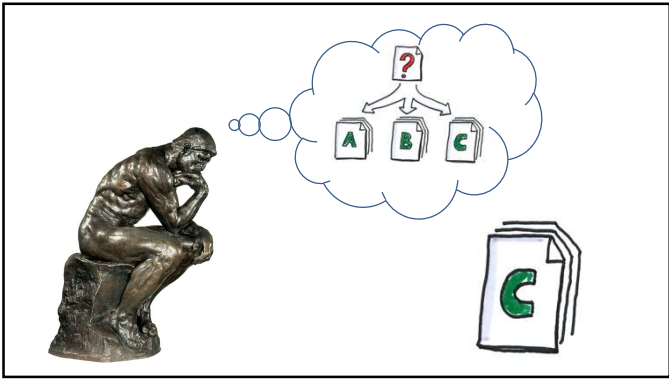
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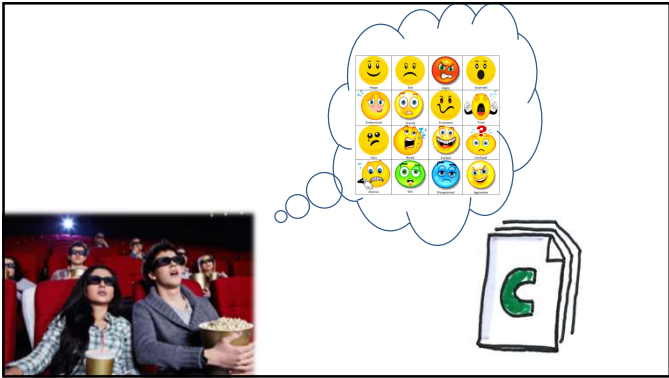
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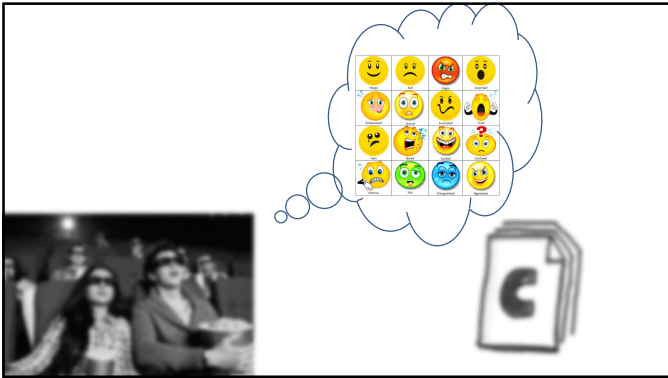
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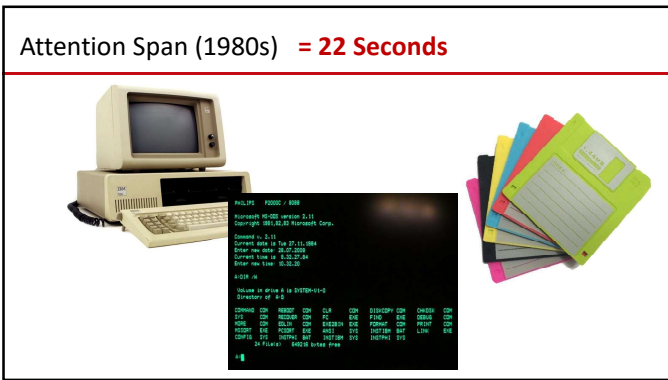
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Attention Span (2016) = 9 Seconds



112

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Attention Span (2016) = 9 Seconds = 2.8 Seconds



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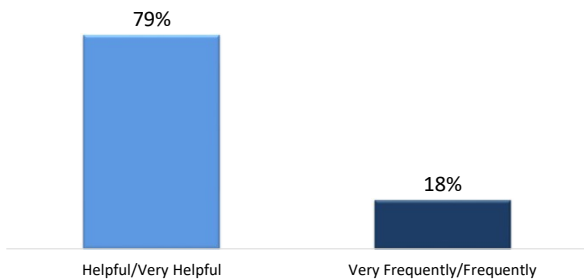
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How Helpful Is it to Include a Personal Story?  
How Frequently do Constituents include a Personal Story?



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### Quote from a Member of Congress

"I went to a lunch hosted by cancer centers in my state. Instead of having those guys in white coats do their lobbying, they brought in patients—kids and their parents.

**They all got up and told their story.**

When they were done, there wasn't a dry eye in the room."

-House Democratic Member

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### 7 Elements of Personal Narratives for Advocacy

- Begin with the end in mind
- Set the stage
- Paint the picture
- Describe the fight
- Include a surprise
- Introduce the potential success and joy
- Finish with a hook

116

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### BUT FIRST – Begin with the End In Mind

- If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there
- An advocate knows what the ask is
- A story teller lays the groundwork and knows what they want
- Consider various tactics and methods to achieve your goal in the story (flattery, surprise, restraint, emotion)

117

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### 1. "The Opening"

#### Set the Stage & Establish the Stakes

- Your first sentence or two should be a hook to make them want to know more
- Establish context for the life you'll describe
- What was at stake? (For the patient, or the family or even you....)

118

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### 2. "Paint the Picture" – The Details and the Senses

- What did you see, hear, touch, taste, smell?
- Remember the adjectives of the situation
- Make it real. Be practical, specific, and graphic – don't hold ANYTHING back!

119

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### 3. "The Struggle" – Describe the Fight

- Identify the conflict
- Struggles are mental, philosophical, emotional, physical – even internal
- Play the underdog – turn weakness into strength

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#### 4. "The Discovery" – Always Surprise the Legislator

- Wait until it has the most impact
- Balance the past and the present
- What did you learn?
- How did that learning impact your life and others like you now, and in the future?

121

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#### 5. "We Can Win!"

##### Introduce the Potential of Success & Joy

- Success – Our hero/heroine wins
- Comfort/Joy – Our audience participates

122

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#### 6. "The Button" – Finish with a Hook

- Have your ending sentence clearly memorized and know when to use it
- Exercise restraint

123

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The Power of Story-Telling

124

The Power of Story-Telling

Aiden's Story

125

 TAMMY BALDWIN  
U.S. SENATOR FROM WISCONSIN

NEWSABOUTTAMMYLEGISLATIONSIGN UP FOR NEWSLETTERHELP FOOT

ON 03/18

U.S. SENATORS TAMMY BALDWIN AND JONI ERNST INTRODUCE BIPARTISAN REFORM TO ENSURE COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN BORN WITH CONGENITAL ANOMALIES OR BIRTH DEFECTS

WASHINGTON, DC — U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Joni Ernst (R-IA) today introduced bipartisan legislation to ensure health insurance coverage for newborns diagnosed with congenital anomalies or birth defects. The growing young Biden Act would also ensure coverage for the medical care of children born with congenital anomalies or birth defects, including any services dental and vision services that are necessary for maintaining health and overall function.

Senator Baldwin worked on this legislation after learning the story of 12-year-old Dylan Adams of Dodge, Wisconsin who was born with Bilateral Epilepsy (BE), a rare congenital disease, and who has needed extensive dental and oral care and all related expenses throughout his life, among other services related to BE. Despite having comprehensive health insurance, the Adams paid dental coverage for Dylan's dental work and forced to pay out of pocket for his treatment. Although Dylan's health insurance covers the congenital anomalies, claims are routinely denied or delayed for annual or dental-related procedures due to an "inherently" disease.

"Aiden's story has inspired my work on this issue to guarantee that individuals born with congenital anomalies have access to the comprehensive health treatments and coverage they need and deserve," said Senator Baldwin.

Senators will meet with affected families and other stakeholders to ensure that the bill addresses the needs of all children born with congenital anomalies. They will also be working to ensure that the bill is passed and signed into law as soon as possible.

126



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### 1. "The Opening"

#### Set the Stage & Establish the Stakes

While most kids eat lunch quickly and run off to play my son usually has to spend the entire lunch hour carefully chewing.

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### 2. "Paint the Picture"

#### The Details and the Senses

Enjoys basketball and spending time with his friends.  
His skin is sensitive and he is missing many teeth.

129

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### 3. "The Struggle"

#### Describe the Fight

When he does get out to play, many kids like him face bullying because they have trouble understanding him.

It took over three years of speech therapy for Aidan to be able to speak clearly and make it possible for our family, his classmates, and teachers to understand him when he speaks.

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### 4. "The Discovery"

#### Always Surprise the Legislator

- If Aidan had been in an accident those missing teeth would be covered by insurance.

131

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### 5. "We Can Win!"

#### Introduce the Potential of Success & Joy

By passing the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA), Congress can help other children in your district like Aidan. ELSA will help families like ours by ensuring that medical insurance plans cover the repair of congenital anomalies such as those that affect my son.

132

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6. "The Button"  
Finish with a Hook

How far do you think you'd get in your life without teeth?

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Another example of a compelling story

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Video Meetings



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### Video Meeting Tips

**Do!**

Meetings are more efficient and effective if both parties have a quiet place where a computer can be sitting on a stationary surface. I find it challenging to talk with someone when they are carrying me around on their cell phone as they run errands. I feel like I am their second priority in those moments when I have cleared time to make them my first priority.

– Democratic Senate Administrative Director

**Don't!**



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### Congressional Staff Survey

How HELPFUL are the following when having virtual meetings with constituents?

137

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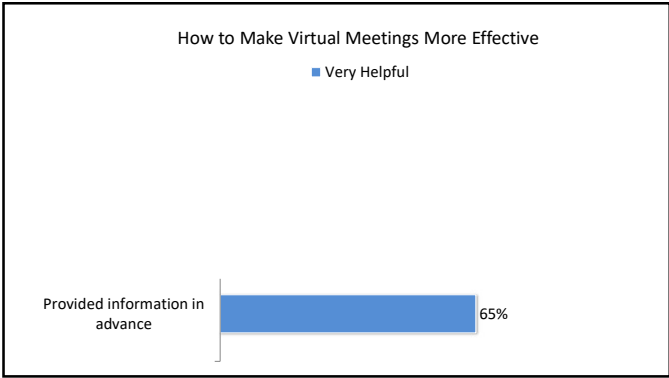
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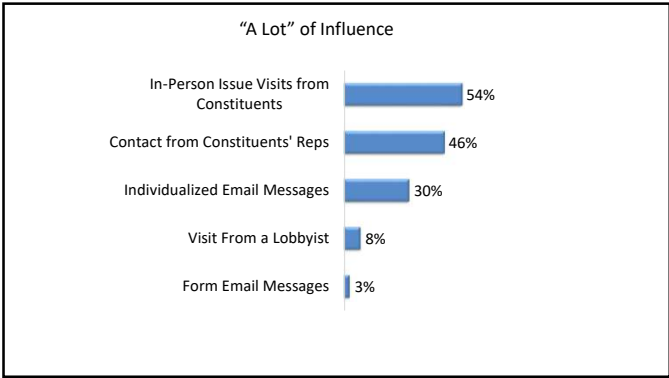
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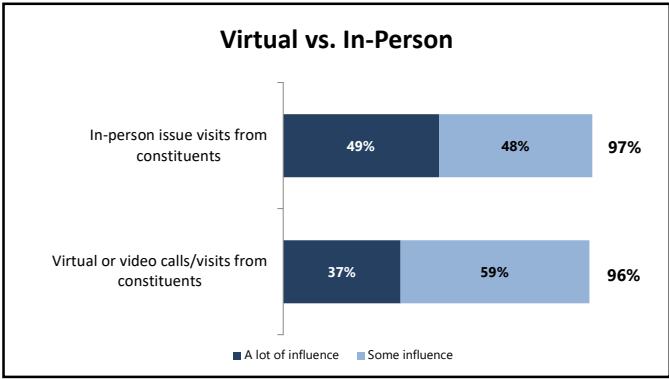
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*"Our Member is excited to continue video conferencing for outreach, regardless of the pandemic."*

— House Chief of Staff

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Engage Congress on Social Media



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142

Congressional Staff Survey

How many similar comments on a social media is enough for your office to pay attention to?

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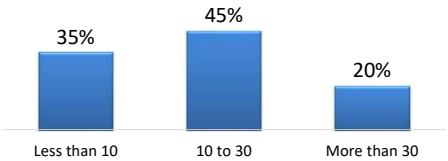
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143

How many similar comments on a social media post are enough for your office to pay attention?



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144



### Congressional Staff Survey

If your Member of Congress has not arrived at a firm decision on an issue,

how much influence might social media posts directed to your office (including posts on your office/Member platforms) from the following have on his/her decision?

145

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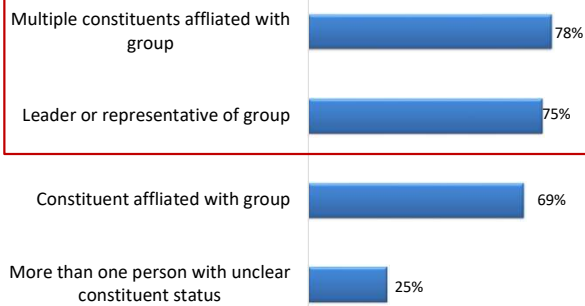
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"Some" or "A Lot" of Influence



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### In-State Interaction Tools

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### Congressional Staff Survey

The Member of Congress prefers to have meetings with constituent groups in...?

148

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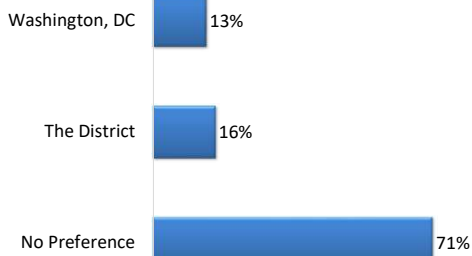
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### Attend a Town Hall Meeting

- Be prepared
- Go early, meet staff
- Go in groups
- Leave paper
- Provide feedback to professional advocate



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## Attend a Telephone Town Hall Meeting



151

## Letters to the Editor



152

## In-District Site Visits



153

Congressional Staff Survey

When your Member is trying to be visible throughout the district, how important are the following activities?

154

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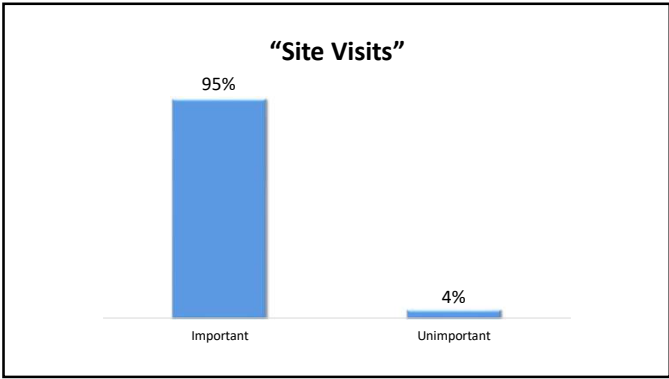
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Congressional Staff Survey

"Approximately how often does your Member personally participate in the following events/activities when in the district?"

156

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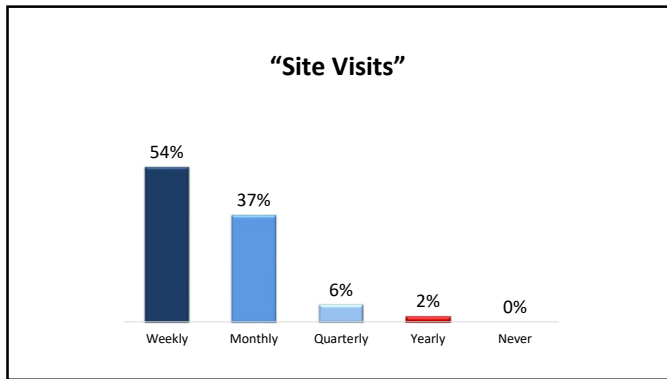
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**Site Visits**

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*"My Member does not like sitting in an office. He prefers to be out in the district meeting with constituents **in their own venue.***

*He gains insight to their issues, challenges and needs by being present on the ground"*

House District Director

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**Public Health AmeriCorps Site Visits**

VA Governor's Advisory Board on Service & Volunteerism

Senator Mark Warner's staff

AmeriCorps staff

AmeriCorps members

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## AmeriCorps Virginia Programs

**Tweet**

**Tara Mason-Elder** @taraelder

Kicked off my week of Essex HS in Tappahannock to join Rep. @Wittman11 and @VAService for a career at VA College Advancing @AmeriCorps member Hayley & her students. Loved hearing how @AmeriCorps members like Hayley are helping their students achieve their post-secondary dreams.

Great to join @VAService, Virginia State Sen Barbara Favola & State Delegate Alfonso Lopez yesterday to meet with Aspiet AmeriCorps members. These @AmeriCorps members are expanding learning opportunities & building thriving futures for 100s of young people in South Arlington.

10:32 PM · Apr 25, 2023 · 102 Views

1 Retweet · 4 Likes

14:31 PM · Apr 22, 2023 · 1,047 Views

8 Comments · 1 Quote · 14 Likes

VA Governor's Advisory Board on Service & Volunteerism

Cong. Wittman

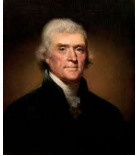
Virginia State Senator and Delegate

Fairfax County School Board Member

AmeriCorps staff & Members

Students

160



*"We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."*

- Thomas Jefferson

161

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR

*A More Perfect Union*

**C.M.F.** CONGRESSIONAL MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION

CongressFoundation.org

162

 CONGRESSIONAL  
MANAGEMENT  
FOUNDATION

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR  
*Art More Perfect Union*

Relationship Building with Lawmakers:  
Making it Personal through Story Telling

July 29, 2024

Presentation for

 Council for  
Exceptional  
Children

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Special  
Education  
Legislative  
Summit 

July 29 - August 1, 2024

 Council of  
Administrators  
of Special Education

 Council for  
Exceptional  
Children

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**Wrap-up/ Next Day**


 Kareem Thompson, CEC

 Kevin Rubenstein, CASE

Special  
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Legislative  
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Administrators  
of Special Education

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Exceptional  
Children

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## Wrap-up/ Next Day

**Upcoming:**  
 6:00 pm Reception  
 8:30 – 9:15 am Breakfast  
 9:15 am Kickoff  
 9:30 am Anatomy of a Hill Visit  
 10:00 am Mental Health  
 11:45 am Appropriations  
 2:00 pm Educator Shortage


Special  
Education  
Legislative  
Summit  
July 29 - August 1, 2024



CASE  
Council of Administrators  
of Special Education



Council for  
Exceptional  
Children



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Special  
Education  
Legislative  
Summit  
July 29 - August 1, 2024





CASE  
Council of Administrators  
of Special Education



Council for  
Exceptional  
Children

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