



Joint Religious Legislative Coalition

Day on the Hill 2018: "If not now, when?"

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District Table Hints

Preparation

- **Identify your District Leader**; if one is not already designated, recruit someone who has been to Day on the Hill before.
- **Exchange information** about your legislators and if they are supportive, possibly supportive, or oppositional to JRLC issues. It will help the group have a better meeting and be prepared for the dialogue.
- **Choose two people** to initially present information. It's best if one person has a personal example that directly relates to the issue. This example will need to be clear and to the point.
- **Prepare responses to objections** and come up with a strategy that leaves the legislator with the impression constituents are going to be watching how the legislator votes on these issues and are active in their community if you anticipate that the legislator is oppositional. It is important to leave a positive impression with the legislator about the work of faithful citizens.
- Have presenters **prepare an outline** of what they are going to say to help them stay on track.
- Have the other group members prepare for what they would like to say because in most visits everyone will have a chance to speak.
- Write down everyone's **name and address to leave behind** with the legislator.

During the Meeting

- Convener will introduce the group and purpose for the meeting. Quickly move to a discussion of the issues.
- Try to keep the legislator focused on JRLC issues. Beware of questions that take you off topic.
- Ask them to support your position then, if needed, ask for a clear response. State back to them your understanding of their position. Example: "I hear you saying you will support this bill".
- Thank them for their service and for taking time to meet with you. Be sure to let your lawmakers know you will continue to be an active citizen and would like to support her/him for voting for JRLC issues. If appropriate, offer to pray for the legislator.
- At the end of the meeting provide the legislator with your group's contact information and a copies of the Poverty Progress Report and legislative issues.

After the Meeting

- Debrief about the meeting: What went well? What were the challenges? Exchange contact information for next steps, make sure you know your District Leader and your District Leader knows you. What are folks planning on doing to inform their congregations?
- Fill out your evaluation form and, if you are the District Leader, debriefing sheet, and drop those off in the box in the Rotunda as you leave the Capitol.

Action Steps for Advocates

In-Person Meetings

Advantages	Limitations
Can ask direct questions or hear a response back from your legislators	Length of meeting may be short or too much time spent talking about topics unrelated to the issues at hand
Can be done with a group of others from your district	
Can leave materials behind for your legislators	

Phone Calls

Advantages	Limitations
Allows you to hear a response back from your legislators	You are unable to provide additional materials during a phone call
Can leave a message if you don't want to speak with someone directly	
Calls and messages can be appropriately timed for important actions	
Can be performed in coordination with others in your district	

Writing Letters or Postcards

Advantages	Limitations
Able to provide additional materials with a letter	Form letters or multiple letters with the same message can lose impact for legislators
Can be performed in coordination with others in your district	

Writing Letters to the Editor

Advantages	Limitations
Message reaches a wide audience	Letters to the editor often have limits on length or number of words
Can share the strength of the organizations you are writing on behalf of	No guarantee that your letter will be published