



Sample legislative meeting script

Introductions:

Everyone present quickly introduces themselves stating name, medical specialty and place of employment/professional affiliations.

- *If a group meeting with the legislator is larger than 5 people, the designated speakers should introduce themselves and the group as a whole (not individually).*

Confirm time allotted for the meeting to ensure you customize remarks appropriately.

- *Respect their time constraints- you can always follow up with additional information!*

Speaker 1:

Delegate/Senator XXXX (or staff) -

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us. I / we requested this meeting today because we are taking part in Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action's Advocacy Day. If you're not familiar, Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action - or VCCA - is an organization representing more than 500 health professionals across the Commonwealth who are concerned about the threat that climate change poses to the health of our patients and our communities.

Speaker 2:

Today we have two objectives:

First and foremost, to ask that you continue supporting very important climate legislation passed in recent years that have strong public health benefits. These include:

- *Virginia's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)*
- *Advanced Clean Car Standards*

Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action and healthcare professionals across the state supported these bills and believe they must not be weakened, rolled back or repealed. Bills introduced this session and some actions by the administration threaten the health of Virginians by unwinding the progress made by these pieces of legislation.

Second, we would like to highlight and ask for your support on these pieces of legislation before the General Assembly that will protect public health.

We will be happy to follow up with any further information you need regarding these bills and will also be sending an email following this meeting that summarizes our priorities, but in the interest of time, wanted to tell you a bit about why we believe these bills are important to protect the health of Virginians:

VCCA SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING BILLS:

Note: See additional talking points document for additional content, but if time is extremely short, you can just list each one (referencing numbers and title and saying that

each one plays a role in promoting public health by helping us address climate change and transition to a clean energy economy)

Parking Lot Solar

SB 234/HB 367: “Parking Lot Solar Development Pilot Program and Fund Bill” (Sen. Hashmi, Del. Reid) This program, funded through solar ERCs, would incentivize developers to install solar panels over parking lots.

Data Centers

HB116/SB192: “Retail Sales and Use tax; exemption for data centers.” (Del. Sullivan, Sen. Subramanyam) Incentivizes data center operators to use carbon-free renewable energy in order to receive sales and use tax exemptions.

Comprehensive Health Plan

SB595/HB208: Comprehensive plan; Creating Healthy Communities during Comprehensive Planning Bill (Sen. Bagby, Del. Simonds) This bill would allow localities to adopt a healthy communities strategy as part of its next and any subsequent reviews of the comprehensive plan.

Tree Canopy

HB529: “Trees; expands existing local government authority to conserve or replace during development process.” (Del. Hope) Expands local government authority to conserve/replace trees during the development process by allowing localities to establish higher tree canopy replacement percentages.

IF TIME ALLOWS: *Share some personal motivations or patient stories that reinforce the important role that clinicians play in observing the health impacts of our changing climate.*

Speaker #3- Closing:

Does your office already have a position regarding these bills? Can we count on your support to defend climate progress and vote in favor of these bills we’ve highlighted if given the opportunity?

- **If yes**, thank them for support and state you’ll look forward to working with them moving forward and being a resource on similar bills.
- **If no**, ask if they need any additional information you might be able to provide and state that you’ll look forward to following up.

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us today. I hope you see that health professionals have a role and interest in protecting public health from the dangers posed by climate change. We will be following up with an email after this meeting outlining these priorities and providing further resources.

We hope you will consider defending Virginia’s progress and supporting these additional bills. We look forward to being a resource if you ever need information regarding climate and health.
END