Research Advocacy Tip Sheet

Make it personal
One of the most valuable messages you can convey to a legislator is the research you are working on. In advocating for research, it’s easy to focus on the forest at the expense of the trees. Your personal story and research can help tell a broader story about the importance of research.

Be sure to thank legislators
Perhaps the legislator you are meeting with voted a certain way on a bill or gave a speech on a topic of interest to you. Be sure to thank the legislator for those actions! Likewise, a thank you follow-up after your meeting will show Emory’s appreciation for all they do.

Talk about the impact of federal government on your work
Communicating the impact of federal regulation on your research and working life is an important step in connecting your work with the work of the legislator. Does a certain regulation impact your daily routine in a certain way? How much of your day goes to required regulatory administrative tasks? The impact does not need to be negative, however.

Allocate your time
Emory’s Office of Government and Community Affairs is happy to provide you with talking points on research; you are welcome to leave those talking points as a “leave behind” following your meeting. However, focusing on your personal story will have a significant impact. We recommend spending 10% of your time on Emory’s talking points and 90% of your time on your research. Using one of Emory’s three main talking points as a jumping off point can help you frame your personal story.

Things to know before you go
If you are traveling to Washington, DC for a meeting, know that meeting with a staffer is to be expected. While in their DC offices, legislators are booked down to the minute. If possible, try to meet with a legislator in his district office, where schedules allow legislators more time to meet with constituents.