



5 Steps to Be Effective in the Political Process

Note: Please contact NHPCO's Public Policy Team at advocacy@nhpco.org for the latest on what is happening on Capitol Hill, and where your Member of Congress fits into the current hospice advocacy efforts.

1. **Participate in a town hall meeting hosted by your Member of Congress.** Raise your issues publicly during or after the meeting. Introduce yourself, and thank them for their support of hospice.
2. **Have a meeting or an open house at your facility.** This might include a group of consumers, caregivers and employees, who can talk about the type of care provided, and the value of hospice. Ask your Member of Congress to speak to the group. If the staff for the Member of Congress agrees, invite the media to attend, and take photos.
3. **Put a face on hospice.** Show your Member of Congress the faces of hospice – your patients and their constituents – through videos, photographs and testimonials about what hospice care means to them.
4. **Write letters to the editor to your local newspapers.** Emphasize the value of hospice care in your community. Describe how your member of Congress has supported consumer-preferred, cost-effective hospice services.
5. **Be a knowledgeable resource to your Members of Congress on health care policy and hospice issues.** Keep updated on the latest developments involving hospice care at the local, state and federal levels. Use NHPCO's Advocacy web site as a resource.

