

# Fall Advocacy Action Guide

**Effective advocacy** is not about a string of individual actions. It is about building a relationship with your members of Congress and their staff as well as mobilizing your community around important issues. The fall is a great time to start building relationships and engaging your community in this critical action to support systemic change in addressing global poverty.

**As a CRS Club**, you are expected to start your academic year with one (or more!) of the following advocacy actions to help your community understand the importance of civic action and to introduce your CRS Club to the advocacy process!

Use the **CRS Club Action Calendar** on [crs.org/CRSclubs](https://crs.org/CRSclubs) to help focus your actions and plan opportunities to mobilize your community by pairing your action with one of the key dates highlighted on the calendar.

Don't forget to report your actions on your **CRS Club Mid-Year Report** to ensure that CRS can record and celebrate your outstanding efforts!

## Campus-Wide Actions

*Take at least one of these actions to fulfill your Club advocacy expectation for the fall.*

### TABLE TO INFORM YOUR CAMPUS

One of the first steps to mobilizing your campus is making sure they are informed about this year's Impact Issues and how they can take action. Set up a Club table in a public space on your campus. Share advocacy resources from [crs.org/LeadtheWay](https://crs.org/LeadtheWay) and [crs.org/CRSclubs](https://crs.org/CRSclubs) to help people take action.

### HOST AN EDUCATIONAL EVENT

Bring your whole campus community together to learn about CRS' Impact Issues. Hold an event! Invite a speaker, show a movie or perform an activity to inform and engage your community. Use the stories and information on [crs.org/LeadtheWay](https://crs.org/LeadtheWay) to help build your event.

### ENGAGE IN PUBLIC WITNESS

Public witness, when respectful and appropriate, can be a great way to bring people together around an issue. Consider gathering people at the flagpole on your campus before or after school or using posters to gain the attention of your community about an issue.

## PRAY TOGETHER

Prayer is an important and powerful way to mobilize your community around an issue and help people understand how that issue relates to our faith. Invite your community to a prayer service, rosary or dedicated school Mass that highlights one of the Impact Issues. Prayers and prayer services are available on [crs.org/LeadtheWay](https://www.crs.org/LeadtheWay).

### Member/Club Actions

*Take these actions throughout the fall to build your advocacy skills and confidence.*

## WRITE TO YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Emails and letters on an issue can influence your members of Congress, but it's best to make them personal. Make sure to share who you are and why you care about the issue in your emails and letters—it will make your message 10 times more effective.<sup>1</sup>

## ATTEND AN EVENT

Members of Congress regularly host town hall meetings and other gatherings in their districts or states to hear from constituents like you! Attending an event is a great opportunity to ask questions about your issues and get to know congressional staff.

## USE SOCIAL MEDIA

Whether it's Twitter or Facebook, the social media platforms you use can be powerful tools to contact the U.S. Congress. Research shows that just 30 posts or comments from constituents on an issue will help get the attention of congressional offices.

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<sup>1</sup> Fitch, Bradford, Kathy Goldschmidt, and Nicole Folk Cooper. "Citizen-Centric Advocacy: The Untapped Power of Constituent Engagement." [congressfoundation.org](https://www.congressfoundation.org). Congressional Management Foundation, 2017. [congressfoundation.org](https://www.congressfoundation.org).

