

Spring Advocacy Action Guide

Advocacy is about building a relationship with your members of Congress and their staff as well as mobilizing your community around important issues. Spring is a time to grow and build upon your fall actions to engage your community and cultivate relationships with your members of Congress and their staff.

As individual club members, take consistent, monthly action by participating in the actions as indicated on the **Monthly Action Sheets**, which you can find on crs.org/CRSClubs. Build your skills while expanding your relationships with your members of Congress!

As a CRS Club, you are invited to take one (or more!) of the following actions to help your community use the information they learned in the fall and engage with your CRS Club in the advocacy process!

Use the **CRS Club Action Calendar** on crs.org/CRSClubs to help focus your actions. Plan opportunities to mobilize your community by pairing your actions with one of the key dates highlighted on the calendar.

Don't forget to work with your club's advisor to report your actions on your **CRS Club End-of-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's campus-wide advocacy action for the spring.

PLAN A VIRTUAL VISIT WITH A MEMBER OF CONGRESS

There is nothing more impactful than in-person meetings with your members of Congress or their staff.ⁱ Whether in Washington, DC, or back home in the local office, your meetings help develop relationships and can shape policy. This may require permission forms and transportation. Plan early with your CRS Club Advisor.

HOST A VIRTUAL TOWN HALL OR SITE-VISIT

Invite a member of Congress or their staff to join you for a virtual visit to talk to your student body. Plan at least 7 weeks in advance as congressional schedules fill up fast. Make sure that your Club members are ready with information about the Impact Issues and specific, respectful questions for the member of Congress or staffer. Reach out to your local CRS staff member for help with logistics and planning.

SEND A SIGNED LETTER OR PETITION FROM YOUR SCHOOL

Invite everyone on your campus to sign a letter of concern to your member of Congress regarding an Impact Issue, then include a cover letter from the school. Make sure to secure the approval of your school before taking this action. Pair this action with a tabling event.

PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC WITNESS

Build on your fall expression of public witness by inviting members of local media to cover a meeting at the flagpole or a prayerful walk to demonstrate your community's support for one of the Impact Issues. Be sure to secure necessary permits or school approval as part of your plans. Share your event with your members of Congress and show your school's commitment to addressing global poverty.

USE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY TO THINK CREATIVELY ABOUT HOW YOU CAN ENGAGE AND MOBILIZE YOUR FRIENDS AND PEERS.

¹ Fitch, Bradford, Kathy Goldschmidt, and Nicole Folk Cooper. "Citizen-Centric Advocacy: The Untapped Power of Constituent Engagement." congressfoundation.org. Congressional Management Foundation, 2017. congressfoundation.org.