



Hosting a lawmaker for a visit to a child care program is one of the most effective advocacy tactics.

These visits offer lawmakers opportunities to see first-hand the important and valuable work that happens in child care programs every day. They also offer you an opportunity to speak directly with lawmakers and their staff about what it takes to provide this essential care.



Whether you're hosting a visit for the first time, or you've hosted hundreds of visits, check out our **Top 10 Tips designed to maximize the opportunity and help your visit run smoothly.**

1. Send an invite 5-6 weeks in advance. 

Lawmakers' calendars book up quickly, so be sure to begin the scheduling process about 5-6 weeks before you would like the event to happen.

2. Create an agenda for the event. 

Lawmaker visits are just like any other important event; they run better when there is a clear agenda. Keep in mind the total amount of time with the lawmaker and create a plan to maximize the visit.

3. Determine Your Message. 

While there are many wonderful and important things to highlight during a lawmaker visit, try to narrow down a couple of key points you really want to emphasize. A helpful way to narrow it down is to ask yourself, "what three things do I hope the lawmaker remembers after this visit?"

4. Prepare Materials. 

With so many great things to share and limited time, a good way to make sure the lawmaker and their staff remember your message is to create a one-page document they can refer back to after the visit.

5. Inform Families. 

As with any notable guests visiting a child care program, and potentially interacting with children, families of children will need to be notified. Consider if there is a role for a parent or family member to play in the visit.

6. Include Provider Voices. 

Child care providers play an essential role in the success of any child care program. Offering educators the opportunity to share their experiences helps paint a fuller picture of what goes into providing child care.

7. Take Pictures. 


Taking and posting pictures on social media is a great way to amplify your visit and stay in touch with your lawmaker after the visit. Be sure to have signed photo-release forms for everyone, including versions for children which you can secure in advance of the visit. Tag your lawmaker in your social post, and they might even respond or make their own post about the visit!

8. Follow Up. 

After the visit, send an email within the following 3-5 business days to the lawmaker and their staff to thank them for their time. This is also a great moment to share any photos from the visit, share your materials, and re-emphasize your key points.

9. Stay in Touch. 

Building relationships with lawmakers is a critical part of advocacy. After the visit, stay in touch with your lawmaker and their team to keep them updated about your child care landscape.

10. Ask for Help. Hosting a lawmaker visit can become a big project. 

Don't be afraid to reach out to ask for help. If you have any questions about hosting a visit, contact the CCAoA team at takeaction@usa.childcareaware.org.