AAVCPR Goes to Washington, D.C.

You are vigorously making many appointments with Congressional members, both US House and US Senate. Thank-you for that! It would be very valuable for us to know which offices will be visited, by appointment or if you plan to “drop in” with your folder if you’re unable to secure an appointment with the member and/or health staffer.

To that end, Please have your State’s Lead DOTH attendee enter your appointment information in this Google Spreadsheet. We will use this information as we help you track sponsors and follow-up with potential sponsors after the event.

You’ll receive a final excel of US Senate and Representative offices that have received messages via the virtual lobbying tool. We hope this last two-week blitz is effective in “opening the door” for your visit.

You’ll also receive a final roster of everyone attending DOTH. Be sure you’ve connected with others in your state so all offices are covered without duplicative work on your end. Going together or dividing up “the team” - whatever works best for you in D.C. is great.

Just a few don’t-embarrass-yourself tips:

• Have a story or a few that paint the picture of the negative impact Section 603 is having on CR and PR services in your state. You will be asked this question.
• Know how many letters and messages have been received in the office you’re visiting and make sure the member/staffer you’re meeting with is also aware that this office has received these letters and tweets.
• Read the bill. (It’s short.)
• Know what committees the member you’re visiting serves on. (Anyone can cosponsor this bill, by the way.)
• Know who has sponsored (signed) onto HR 4838. The link to the bill has a tab for co-sponsors to date. You may be asked. Know that it’s a bipartisan bill.
• “Support” does not necessarily translate into “cosponsor”, so if the response is, “Yes I’ll support this bill,” be sure to clarify that means “will cosponsor”. Any hedging on this will require a call (“Can I call you in a week? Do you want more letters from constituents?” ... etc.) Please follow through with that office so this issue isn’t forgotten.
• Some of us know how to have fun. If you’re arriving Sunday and want to join a group going to see the show, Shear Madness, Sunday evening, please contact Anita Jones at anitaj5@gmail.com.

This is going to be great.

Thanks,
Karen Lui
239-218-1372