Texas Association for Home Care & Hospice

Meeting with Members of Congress and/or Hill Staff

1. Read Member bios and description of district.

2. Know Member's committee assignments, including whether they sit on health care committees of jurisdiction, and positions of influence. Appreciate the difference between being in the majority (currently Republicans in the House and Senate) or minority (Democrats in the House and Senate).

3. Be patient with the any security restrictions and rules. Bring your ID.

4. Members and their staff may be late because of previous meetings, votes, or other demands on their time.

5. Be prepared to hold meetings in unusual places (i.e., hallways, cramped meeting rooms, cafeteria, etc.)

6. Allow Akin to make brief introductions of meeting participants, TAHC&H, and the purpose of the visit. Note whether you are a constituent or care for patients in the Member's district. It is even more helpful if you can relay how many patients you serve or how many employees live in the district.

7. Most meetings only last 15-20 minutes. Listen as much as you talk. Try to learn the Member's/staff's position. Make sure you relay how access to home health and hospice is important to a Member's constituents.

8. Ask the Member/staff to take a specific action (ex. sponsor legislation supported by TAHC&H).

9. Thank the Member and staff for their time during a very busy week in Congress and offer to be a resource on issues that affect home health and hospice.

10. After the meeting, write or email a thank you note. Stay in periodic touch with Member/staff. Look for opportunities to convey information to be of help.