

Suggested Script

The key to delivering an effective message to Congress is to keep it simple and get to the point.

Start by introducing yourself and stating your hometown. As a constituent, your call will be prioritized over other calls. Make the “ask”, and then provide context. Express your appreciation for the Congressman or Senator’s consideration of your view.

For example:

*“Hi, my name is **** from ****. I’m a constituent calling to express concern about a proposed rule from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that would limit treatment options for cancer patients. Proton therapy is an advanced and precise form of radiation treatment that limits exposure to healthy tissue preventing complex side effects.*

The proposed rule is for the Radiation Oncology Alternative Payment Model, or RO Model. I urge the Congressman/Senator to question CMS on its mischaracterization of proton therapy in the proposed rule in the hopes that CMS will consider fair reimbursement to ensure access to proton therapy is not jeopardized. Medicare should make targeted therapies available to patients whose physicians recommend it.

The above script serves as a guide. We encourage you to personalize it if possible but keep it brief. Keep in mind, your call will be answered by a receptionist, usually called a Staff Assistant. Staff Assistants field hundreds of calls per day about many different issues. Make it easy for them to pass your message along. They will take notes and pass it along to the appropriate policy staffer, so be clear and concise in your speech, and most of all, be polite.

Please note that Staff Assistants are typically NOT policy experts, and may not know much about your issue. Do not ask the Staff Assistant for their personal opinion.