

# Lawmaker Meetings: Suggested Script



"Thank you, Representative/ Senator \_\_\_\_\_, for taking the time to meet with your cancer-fighting constituents today.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am an ACS CAN volunteer. With me are constituents and advocates from around your district to talk about their cancer stories. Introduce constituent(s) in the room with you.

During this meeting we would like to discuss:

- Passing legislation that will increase access to genetic testing so people can make informed decisions about their healthcare without exorbitant costs.
- And ask for your support extending postpartum Medicaid coverage to new moms in the future.

The lifetime risk of breast cancer increases 20–49% for women with moderate risk inherited gene mutations and 50% or more for women with high-risk gene mutations. Identifying inherited cancer risks, can help guide decisions regarding recommended screenings for the early detection of cancer.

Arkansas is one of two states to not extend postpartum Medicaid coverage to new moms.

This is important to me because (share your personal story and connect it to the importance of genetic testing. If another volunteer has a personal story that has a strong connection, please introduce them and have them speak. Keep it brief.)

## **The ASK:**

- Please support House Bill 1079 to eliminate cost-sharing requirements for clinically appropriate genetic testing, as well as recommended screenings based on that testing.

Remember, we want to hear a yes or no answer.

- If your elected official answers yes to this question that is great! Thank him/her for their support.
- If your member answers no, ask why and if there is further information you can provide after the meeting. Include that information on your report back form.
- If your member doesn't give a direct yes or no answer, ask for clarification.
- You should plan to follow-up with your lawmaker 1–2 weeks after your meeting (by phone or email) to ensure questions are answered and check on their level of support.

**Please note:** this script is a framework for your conversation. Please feel free to elaborate and share your personal cancer story and use information from the fact sheet and talking points.