

VISIT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



WEAR ORANGE 2018

According to our latest report with the Center for American Progress “America’s Youth Under Fire,” young people today are more likely to be shot by a gun than be killed in a car accident. Now, more than ever, we need to speak to our leaders to demand change. Did you know every member of congress has one or more district offices in your state? An underrated but effective way to reach your representative directly is simply by requesting a meeting with them. We know this can sound intimidating, that’s why we’ve come up with sample scripts and talking points on a couple of big issues to arm you with the tools you need for your next meeting with your representative. Whether you’re concerned about reproductive health care access or the environment, check-out the mockups we’ve put together to get you started on how you can engage your representative on issues that matter to you.

Even if you can’t get on your representative’s calendar, it’s usually pretty easy to meet with one of their staff members - a direct connection with your congress member’s staff can be just as valuable as meeting with your representative.

You can start your meeting off like this:

Hi [[NAME]], thank you for taking the time to meet with me. I’m a constituent of yours from the XXX area in your district. I wanted to meet with you in-person to tell you a little bit about my concerns regarding XXX and to hear from you on policy fixes you are working on to address this issue.

From there, launch into your talking points. This guide contains sample scripts for visiting lawmaker offices to discuss gun violence and criminal justice reform.

At the conclusion of the meeting, allow the staff member or representative to ask questions and respond to your concerns. Capture any follow-ups or commitments they make to stay on top of the issue and reiterate them at the end of the meeting. Thank them for hearing you out and be sure to get their contact information to touch base with them periodically on your issue. If the staff member or representative cannot offer you any assurance that they will be taking action on the issue, be sure to let me them know that you will continue to be vocal by notifying your friends, neighbors and local media about your representative’s lack of commitment to the issue.

Gun Violence

Prevention & Criminal

Justice Reform

SAY THIS:

Hi [[NAME]], thank you for taking the time to meet with me. I'm a constituent of yours from the XXX area in your district. I wanted to meet with you in-person to tell you about my work and hear from you about your plans to prevent gun violence and make our community more equitable.

Tell your story about how your life has been impacted by gun violence and/or the criminal justice system. Tell them about the impact violence has had on your life and the steps you and your community have taken to prevent violence.

BE PREPARED:

Print out these sources to reference or leave with your representative's office:

- [America's Youth Under Fire: The Devastating Impact of Gun Violence on Young People](#)
- [6 Ways to Reduce Gun Violence in America](#)

ASK THIS:

Q1: Congressman/women, I am concerned about the rate of gun violence in our community and across the country. As a Millennial, my generation is disproportionately affected by gun violence and I am concerned for my safety and safety of my friends and family. We also need to ensure that people who pose a heightened risk to community safety, such as domestic abusers and people convicted of violent crimes, do not have easy access to guns. **What are you doing to reduce the rate of gun violence in our community and ensure that young people have the opportunity to grow up with a sense of genuine security?**

Q2: Congressman/women, I am concerned about the numerous instances of police violence seen in communities across the country. It is clear that our criminal justice system does not deliver justice for all — instead, people of color are disproportionately subject to police violence and incarceration. **What are you doing to ensure that ALL members of our community are able to feel genuine security? How can our community better support each other and root out bias and racism in our institutions?**

Q3: Congressman/women, the US is 5% of the World population, yet has 25% of world prisoners. Additionally, African Americans are incarcerated at nearly six times the rate of whites. **What are you doing to push for badly need reforms to our criminal justice system? What programs do you support to help formerly incarcerated individuals reenter our community and become productive members of our society?**