

WSDA Legislative RD Day 2010

Sample Script

Introductions: (Who are you?)

Begin the meeting with a discussion about where you live and work. It is important to be specific about the address so that the legislator understands that you are a voter in their district.

(Ex: "My name is ____ and I am a Registered Dietitian working at XYZ Hospital at 1234 ABC Street".

Purpose of Meeting

Briefly state the reason for the meeting.

(Ex: "We would like to tell you about our profession and to explore ways to work together to develop sound public policy regarding Food and Nutrition in Washington State".

Why do you care? (and why should they?)

Briefly provide the legislator with a personal story or strong argument. Lawmakers especially appreciate real life examples.

(Ex: "The reason why I became a Registered Dietitian is because a close family member got diabetes. The experience inspired me to learn about nutrition and how to prevent and manage common illnesses. (story should lead into a discussion of the extensive training that RD's go through)

What Makes RD's Experts in Nutrition?: (discuss credentials)

"Are you familiar with the training & requirements in order to become a Registered Dietitian?"

"A registered dietitian (RD) is a nationally credentialed health professional who has:

- earned at least a bachelor degree in Nutrition at a U.S. regionally accredited college/university
- completed at least 1200 hours of supervised practice in clinical, community, and food service.
- passed American Dietetic Assoc. RD exam & completes continuing education requirements".

"As a result of our extensive training, RD's are recognized as Food and Nutrition experts and employed in a wide range of settings such as: Hospitals, Health Clinics, Nursing Homes, Schools, Food Banks, WIC programs and Food Service Operations".

How can RD's be a resource for developing public policy?

"RD's use evidenced-based results as a basis for our Medical Nutrition Therapy interventions which have proven to not only reduce hospital visits of patients suffering from chronic diseases such as DMII, heart disease and obesity but to also save healthcare dollars".

"With chronic but preventable diseases on the rise, healthcare costs spiraling upward and our state budget in dire straits we believe that Registered Dietitians should be a resource for Washington State Policy development to both improve patient outcomes and save healthcare dollars".

The Ask: (what do you want the legislator to do?)

Be specific with your question and ask for a clear commitment.

(Ex: "As trained experts in the field of Food and Nutrition we believe that a WSDA representative should have a seat at the table when health policies are formulated. Will you support this?

or

"In order to protect the public against false and misleading nutrition information we believe that Licensure establishing scope of practice for Registered Dietitians is essential. Can we count on your support for Licensure of Registered Dietitians?)

Closing

Thank the legislator for their time and make sure to follow-up on any questions or additional info that was requested.