



Sample legislative meeting script

Introductions:

Everyone present quickly introduces themselves stating name, medical specialty and place of employment/professional affiliations.

- *If a group meeting with the legislator is larger than 5 people, the designated speakers should introduce themselves and the group as a whole (not individual introductions).*

Confirm time allotted for the meeting to ensure you customize remarks appropriately.

- *Respect their time constraints- you can always follow up with additional information afterwards!*

Speaker 1:

Delegate/Senator XXXX (or staff) -

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us. I / we requested this meeting today because we are taking part in Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action's Advocacy Day.

If you're not familiar, Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action - or VCCA - is an organization representing more than 450 health professionals across the Commonwealth who are concerned about the threat that climate change poses to the health of our patients and our communities.

Speaker 2:

Today we have two objectives:

First and foremost, to ask that you continue supporting very important climate legislation passed in recent years. These include:

- The Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA)
- Virginia's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)
- Advanced Clean Car Standards

Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action and healthcare professionals across the state supported these bills and believe they must not be weakened, rolled back or repealed. Multiple bills introduced this session threaten the health of Virginians by unwinding the progress made by these pieces of legislation.

Second, we would like to highlight and ask for your support on three pieces of legislation before the General Assembly that will protect public health.

We will be happy to follow up with any further information you need regarding these bills and will also be sending an email following this meeting that summarizes our priorities, but in the interest of time, wanted to tell you a bit about why we believe these bills are important to protect the health of Virginians:

Overview of bills (can be divided up between different speakers if desired):

- *If time is extremely short, you can just list each one (referencing numbers and title and saying that each one plays a role in promoting public health by helping us address climate change and transition to a clean energy economy)*

Public school buildings and facilities; construction and renovation; renewable energy.

Directs the Commission on School Construction and Modernization to assist in developing renewable energy generation facilities in the construction of school buildings.

- SB 848 (Favola), HB 1852 (Subramanyam)

Department of Emergency Management; comprehensive extreme heat emergency response plan.

Legislation directs the Department of Emergency Management to develop a comprehensive extreme heat emergency response plan.

- SB 936 (Hashmi)

Comprehensive plan; healthy communities strategy

Authorizes cities of a certain size to consider adopting a healthy communities strategy. This may include identifying neighborhoods with pollution and objectives to reduce health risks there.

- SB 1322 (McClellan)

VCCA OPPOSES THE FOLLOWING BILLS WHICH THREATEN the Virginia Clean Economy Act, Virginia’s Participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and Virginia’s adoption of the Advanced Clean Car Standards*:

Bills that oppose VCEA		Bills that oppose Clean Cars	Bills that oppose RGGI
HB 1430 Ware	SB 849 Chase	HB 1372 Fowler	SB 1001 Stuart
HB 1643 Kilgore	SB 1121 Hackworth	HB 1378 Wilt	
HB 1770 Kilgore	SB 1125 Hackworth	SB 778 Stuart	
HB 1777 O’Quinn	SB 1231 Lewis	SB 779 Newman	

HB 1783 O'Quinn	SB 1265 Saslaw	SB 781 DeSteph	
HB 2026 O'Quinn	SB 1364 Vogel	SB 782 Reeves	
HB 2130 Wilt	SB 1485 Morrissey	SB 785 McDougle	
HB 2178 Morefield			Budget items opposing RGGI
HB 2197 Byron			HB 1400: Item 114 K1 (Gov. proposal)
HB 2311 Kilgore			SB 800: Item 114 K 1 (Gov. proposal)

IF TIME ALLOWS: *Share some more personal motivations or patient stories that reinforce the important role that health professionals play in observing the health impacts of our changing climate.*

Closing:

Does your office already have a position regarding these bills? Can we count on your support to defend climate progress and vote in favor of these bills we've highlighted if given the opportunity?

- **If yes**, thank them for support and state you'll look forward to working with them moving forward and being a resource on similar bills.
- **If no**, ask if they need any additional information you might be able to provide and state that you'll look forward to following up.

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us today. I hope you see that health professionals have a role and interest in protecting public health from the dangers posed by climate change. We will be following up with an email after this meeting outlining these priorities and providing further resources.

We hope you will consider defending Virginia's progress and supporting these additional bills. We look forward to being a resource if you ever need information regarding climate and health.

END