



## **Tips for making PDA's *Day on the Hill* a Success**

- You will receive most of the information you need in the packet send about a week prior to *Day on the Hill*. Or check out PDA's website at [www.padental.org](http://www.padental.org), to download this information. This information is also available at the registration table.

Due to last minute scheduling with legislative staffers, we will post and email or fax legislative appointment only a day or two prior to *Day on the Hill*. Be sure to check your email or the website before you come to Harrisburg.

- Inform PDA if you have any personal connections to legislators, regardless of whether he/she is your actual representative. Information such as which dental school you or your children attended, a legislator being one of your patients, or your children playing together on a soccer team, will help PDA determine legislative assignments.
- Plan to attend the legislative briefing and continental breakfast from 8:30-9:30 so that you can meet with your team and develop a plan for your legislative visits. It's also the time to direct any questions you may have to staff, PDA's lobbyists or Council on Government Relations members.
- Read the background material on PDA's issues prior to *Day on the Hill*. These will be available on the website about one week in advance. Please call PDA's government relations staff in advance if you have questions.
- Don't forget to schedule appointments with your own Representative and Senator, who may not be included in your team's visit assignments. Scheduling in advance is important so you have a better chance to meet with them. Break away from your team to attend those visits and then rejoin your team for another appointment.
- Contact the PDA should you need your legislator's contact information or access this information at [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us). The *Legislative Directory*, which you will receive during registration, also includes all the information you need. Don't be discouraged if legislators are unavailable



that day for unexpected reasons. Take the time to speak with staff—they are usually the eyes and ears for the legislator.

- Inform PDA if you need special transportation arrangements due to making legislative assignments before the bus arrives at the Capitol at 10:00 a.m. or after the bus leaves the Capitol at 1:00 p.m. PDA will arrange for staff to take you to and from the Capitol separately.
- Bring business cards to distribute to legislators and staff.
- Stay focused. Try not to waste your legislator's time. Keep in mind that this is a session day and his/her presence will be required on the House or Senate floor.
- Stay on message and use the taking points PDA provides. Please don't deviate from the issues PDA chose to lobby that day.
- Be positive and thank legislators for their efforts to improve dentistry in Pennsylvania. Don't berate them even if they voted against an issue PDA supports. It is important to build a positive relationship so that dentists aren't accused of only talking to legislators "when they need something."
- Inform your legislator and his/her staff of the dental community's varied initiatives in promoting oral health and serving the community at large. If you volunteer in an area clinic or in other ways, let your legislator know how this can help constituents who are in need of dental treatment.
- Please assist PDA in its lobbying efforts by noting on the *Legislative Visit Tracking Sheet* which legislators had questions or requested feedback regarding PDA's issue(s).
- Encourage your colleagues and spouse to attend *Day on the Hill* to strengthen dentistry's voice in the legislative arena. Make arrangements to carpool to Harrisburg.
- District and local dental societies are encouraged to rent transportation and travel together. Please consider coordinating with area dental schools, which will most likely send dental students to *Day on the Hill*. Funding is available for districts which rent transportation.