

IMPORTANT: This information should not be downloaded using government equipment, read during duty time or sent to others using government equipment because it suggests action to be taken in support or against legislation.

Tips for Lobbying

Use these tips to prepare yourself for lobbying Congress on NSPS and the DDESS Transfer Issue.

BE PUNCTUAL. Legislators and their staffs have very busy schedules. Do not make them wait.

BE COURTEOUS. A smile and “thank you” goes a long way. Do not get upset if you arrive to find out you will be meeting with a staff member rather than your legislator: staff members have tremendous influence!

STAY ON FOCUS. Pick one or two topics to discuss during your meeting. This is not the time to present a list of complaints to your legislator.

BE PREPARED. Have two or three points prepared for each topic — and stick to your script!

SPEAK PLAINLY. Acronyms like “DDESS” and “DoDDS” are common to us, but not to your legislator. Make sure not to lose them in “shop talk.”

BE CONCISE. Your meeting will last only 10 or 15 minutes, at most. State your concern, state the specific action you want your legislator to take, and answer any questions they have.

BRING MATERIALS. Bring a one-page information sheet on each topic so you can leave it with the legislator’s staff. FEA has prepared information sheets on [NSPS](#) and the [DDESS Transfer Study](#).

MAINTAIN YOUR CREDIBILITY. If you don’t know the answer to a question, admit it. Promise to find the answer and get back to your legislator. Never make up information.

BE POLITE. Don’t argue or name call. If you don’t get the response you want, leave on a friendly note — you may need to ask for help on another issue in the future, so don’t burn bridges!

FOLLOW UP. Send a thank you note immediately, along with any additional information you promised to send.