

Identifying Your District's Members of Congress

When it comes to making hill visits or communicating to your particular District members of congress on critical issues pertaining to the Impact aid program, the first step is identifying the correct legislative office and staffers.

Find your Members of Congress: Visit the NAFIS website (www.nafisdc.org) and click the "Contact Congress" button on the homepage. Find your Members of Congress (one member of the House of Representatives and two Senators) by typing in your zip code into the "Find Officials" tab. Each Member profile contains a wealth of information including a bio, contact information, office locations, committee assignments, etc.

Find staff assignments: Click the Member profile link and scroll to the bottom for staff portfolio assignments. It is common to meet or communicate with a staff member instead of the Member of Congress; they are often the experts on the issues and advise the Member of Congress how to vote on their issue area. In most cases, you will want to meet or communicate with the education staffer or the person who handles appropriations, military or Indian affairs. If you wish to meet or communicate with the Member of Congress, contact the executive assistant or scheduler.

Contact the staff : The telephone number for the Washington, D.C. office is included in the Member profile. You can also search for information on the Member's official website (via: www.house.gov or www.senate.gov). Ask to speak directly to the staff member with whom you want to meet or send information. Often, email is the best way to get in contact with Hill staff. The House and Senate use two different email formats. Generally, the format is as follows:

House emails: Firstname.lastname@mail.house.gov

Senate emails: Firstname_lastname@membersname.senate.gov

Need Help? Contact Jocelyn Bissonnette (Jocelyn@nafisdc.org or 202-624-5455).