

Developing Your 30 Second and 1 Minute Message

Legislators often do not have a great deal of time to meet with constituents on specific issues. Also, audiology students may encounter legislators in a variety of settings other than a scheduled meeting (e.g., at a local town hall meeting, at a benefit, etc.). Accordingly, the SAA's goal is to provide students with a resource providing a sample 30 second and 1 minute message so that students may construct and prepare a message that is appropriate and catered to the issue at hand. Remember, this is just a sample. We would encourage you to create your own message, adding your own experience or perspective on this legislation. Make your pitch personal!

Your message should contain certain parts, which include:

- Specific information on the name and number of the bill
- A short synopsis of the bill's content and what it hopes to accomplish
- A personal story or example on how a piece of legislation could positively or negatively affect their constituents if passed

30 second message:

We are meeting with you today to ask you to support bill S.2424 - Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2015 that would reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children. Hearing loss is the most common birth defect/condition; as many as 3-4 per 1000 babies will be born with a hearing loss each year. The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (EHDI) provides us with the resources to ensure every baby receives a newborn hearing screening and the appropriate follow-up care. Early identification leads to early intervention, which is the ultimate goal.

1 minute message:

[30 second message, plus...] This program now allows us to diagnose hearing loss in children as young as 1-3 months of age. Prior to the universal newborn hearing screening program, hearing loss was not identified until the child was at least 2-4 years old. Early intervention provides parents with resources and support to help maximize their child's development. Early diagnosis and intervention of hearing loss can mean the difference between toddlers entering school with severe language and concept delays versus children with age appropriate language and concept development. We all want our children to get off to a good start. Research shows us that children whose hearing losses are identified in the first 6 months of life, and who received intervention services, developed language within the normal range. Would you be willing to support this important bill?