

February 2018 Recess Toolkit

Legislators will be back home for the week of President's Day! From February 19-23, lawmakers will be listening to what their constituents have to say by attending legislative visits and public events. This is a great opportunity to speak with your representative or senators to highlight two critical issues: **immigration and the federal courts**.

Schedule In-District Meetings

Step 1: Read NCJW's Guide to a Successful Legislative Visit.

Step 2: Schedule your meeting.

- Call your local offices and ask to speak to the scheduler about setting up a meeting. Even if the lawmaker isn't available, they may offer a meeting with staff. That's a great opportunity, too.
- Don't be dissuaded if the office is unresponsive despite several attempts to schedule a meeting. Plan to drop by the office — you may get an impromptu meeting.
- Whether or not you are able to schedule a meeting, be sure to drop off a packet or folder of "leave behind" materials including your business card, NCJW talking points, and relevant section information.

Step 3: Prepare for your meeting. Here are some specific resources to learn about the issues.

- **Federal Courts & Judicial Nominees (Senate only; not House)**
 - [NCJW talking points](#) on judicial nominations
 - NCJW press statements on [Senator Grassley's undermining of the judiciary and the confirmation of David Stras](#)
 - NCJW letters to the Senate opposing nominees [Matthew Kacsmaryk](#), [Kyle Duncan](#), and [Howard Nielson](#)
 - [NCJW action alert](#) urging the Senate to protect a fair and independent judiciary
 - [NCJW Op-Ed: Trump's \(Nearly\) Eternal Legacy](#), by CEO Nancy Kaufman
- **Immigration (House & Senate)**
 - [NCJW talking points](#) on immigration
 - [NCJW action alert](#) urging elected officials to pass the Dream Act
 - [NCJW letter to Congress](#) in support of Dreamers
 - [NCJW Op Ed: As Jews, Dreamers Are Our Children Too](#), by CEO Nancy K. Kaufman
 - NCJW press statements on the [Dream Act](#), [rescinding](#) the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA), and the current [state of play](#) for Dreamers.

Step 4: Execute a productive meeting and follow-up appropriately.

- **We are more powerful when we speak in a unified voice.** During your legislative visits, be sure to stick to the NCJW issues and messaging outlined in the talking points.
- **Make sure to leave behind relevant materials.** You can easily click the links above and print the materials. Be sure to include your business card and relevant local section information.
- **Follow up after the visit.** Don't forget to send a thank you note as well as any relevant information you promised to send.

Step 5: Fill out NCJW's [Lobby Report Form](#) and return it to action@ncjwdc.org.

Other Ways to Make an Impact during February Recess

- **Submit a [letter to the editor](#), [op-ed](#), or [blog](#)** to raise awareness through local press on these critical issues.
- **Print out the appropriate [NCJW Poster or Sign](#)** to bring to a public event.
- **Take pictures and videos** when possible (especially if your lawmakers makes a commitment) to raise awareness on social media. *And then send them to ari@ncjwdc.org.*

Questions? Contact Ari Conrad, Grassroots Associate, at ari@ncjwdc.org or 202-375-5073.