



DISTRICT DAYS: MEETING GUIDE

SCHEDULING YOUR MEETING

- **Timing:** It can take 2-4 weeks to secure a meeting. August is ideal for meeting with legislators in their district offices.
- **Finding Contact Information:** Congressional office details can be found at www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member. Find your district office here.
- **Need Help?:** Contact our policy team at advocacy@celiac.org for assistance with identifying your members of Congress or other questions.



MEETING STRUCTURE

- **Duration:** Plan for 20 minutes, with a maximum of 30 minutes.
- **Agenda:**
 - Quick introductions
 - Share your personal celiac story
 - Highlight key policy priorities
 - Thank the legislator for any support
 - Address any questions; refer policy queries to advocacy@celiac.org
 - Request a photo with the legislator/staff



SHARING YOUR STORY

- **Introduction:** Introduce yourself/your family, share names, and diagnosis details.
- **Challenges:** Be honest about the physical, emotional, and social impacts of celiac disease.
- **Key Moments:** Highlight pivotal moments in your journey.
- **Advocacy Reason:** Explain why you chose to advocate and your goals.
- **Transition:** Clearly articulate your advocacy goals to segue into policy priorities.



For any questions, contact advocacy@celiac.org

DISTRICT DAYS: POLICY PRIORITIES



**CELIAC DISEASE
FOUNDATION®**
ADVOCACY. BREAKTHROUGHS. CURE.

- **Increase funding for celiac disease research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026** – Since FY2021, celiac disease has received research funding at the NIH through the annual Congressional appropriations process. This funding has provided significant opportunity for research advancements in the celiac community, and we ask that it continues to increase in FY2026.
- **Restore funding cuts to the Department of Defense (DoD) Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) and include celiac disease as an eligible condition for study again in FY2026** – For the first time in FY2023, celiac disease was included as an eligible condition within DoD-PRMRP. This is a highly competitive program that allocated \$370 million to over 40 topic areas including celiac disease in FY2024, but saw a severe cut to \$150 million in FY2025. This level of cut has a devastating impact on medical research advancements, and we ask Congress to restore FY2026 back to previous funding levels. These requests must be submitted by Congress each year. We request that celiac disease again be included in the FY2026 appropriations package.

POST MEETING TO DO LIST

- **Send Thanks:** Email a thank you note to the legislator or staff member.
- **Feedback:** Submit meeting feedback through the District Days feedback form.
- **Social Media:** Post photos using #CeliacDistrictDays2025 and tag your legislators.
- **Follow-Up:** Contact our policy team at advocacy@celiac.org with any questions.

Thank YOU for your advocacy!