

HOW TO MEET WITH YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO HELP DAVID

Members of Congress will often meet with their constituents in local offices upon request to their local or state schedulers to discuss legislative concerns or needs.

First, look up your Members of Congress at www.WhoisMyRepresentative.com. Get the phone numbers of their local offices closest to you. If their offices are too far away, e-mail the Legislative Aide who handles North Korea issues for the Member of Congress instead. Likewise e-mail a Legislative Aide if the office cannot fit you into the schedule in a month.

Second, phone each local office and ask for the District Office Scheduler for the office nearest to you. Ask when the Member of Congress may be able to meet in person: “I am one of your constituents, and I would like to request a meeting with Congressman Smith to discuss legislation that has been introduced in the U.S. Congress to help my friend (brother/relative/coworker) David Sneddon. I want to talk to the Congressman in person about the importance of this legislation and ask him to cosponsor it.”

What NOT to Do

Do NOT provide all the details of David’s case to the front office staff members. Skittish staff members may react poorly to an off-the-cuff description of an abduction by North Korea, even though David’s case is legitimate. If they ask for more details, direct them to David’s website at www.HelpFindDavid.com. Reiterate that you live and vote in the district they represent. Request to meet with the Member of Congress in person. If you are directed to an office Caseworker, ask to be directed to a Legislative Aide instead. Caseworkers write letters on behalf of constituents but Legislative Aides can ask Members of Congress to cosponsor legislation. David’s case is a legislative matter, not casework.

How to Hold a Meeting with a Member of Congress:

Dress in professional business attire and arrive on time. Get directions to the office well in advance. Introduce yourself with a firm handshake and a “Thank you for taking time to meet with me today.” Hand the Member of Congress a folder including the following information (print it out from the “Latest Information” tab on David’s website):

- 1) The Wall Street Journal article by Melanie Kirkpatrick
- 2) The Outside Magazine article (this is best printed in color)
- 3) The 1-Page Case Summary for David
- 4) The text of the appropriate version of the congressional resolution (S. Con. Res. 30 is the U.S. Senate version and H. Con. Res. 114 is the U.S. House version.) Both resolutions can be found under the “Congressional Resolution” tab on the website.
- 5) A personal letter from you asking that your Member of Congress become a cosponsor and/or your business card and contact information.

Summarize David’s case, discuss your personal connection to David, and then ask: “Please read the information I leave with you and let me know if you will cosponsor to help David.” Keep the meeting brief as 15-20 minutes may be all the time allowed in the schedule. Follow up with a phone call each week to ask about the progress in making a decision.