



Easy Steps-by-Step Directions to Meet with your Elected Official Regarding TDO

The Senate Bill Passed – Current Focus is on Assembly Members

Materials You Will Need

- Easy Step-by-Step Directions to Meet with your Elected Official
- NYSAND TDO Initiative Video – (for your preparation) (15:52 minutes) and pdf of slides - <https://youtu.be/37uOLFhOEoY>
- TDO Cheat sheet (for your reference during the meeting)
- TDO Summary for Legislators 2021v3 (to share with Assembly Members)
- TDO FAQ

1. Determine if your Assembly Member has already sponsored the bill in 2021-2022 session (**A6398**) by going to this website, <https://nyassembly.gov/leg/> (search for bill A6398).
 - a. If so, you can write an email thanking him/her.
 - b. If not, check the list below to see if your representative sponsored the bill in the 2019-2020 Legislative session.

- i. **2019-2020 Assembly Sponsors:**

JAFFEE, LUPARDO, MOSLEY, CRUZ, SOLAGES, ORTIZ, JOHNS, D'URSO, BUTTENSCHON, DICKENS, SIMON, WILLIAMS, BARRON, DESTEFANO, RAI, MCDONALD, DARLING, MCDONOUGH, LAWRENCE, ZEBROWSKI, STECK, THIELE, ENGLEBRIGHT, ARROYO, TAYLOR, GOTTFRIED, B. MILLER, ASHBY, MONTESANO, MORINELLO, M. L. MILLER, BARNWELL; M-S: Cook, Salka

It would be very helpful to mention this in your initial email or phone discussion. Thank the representative for co-sponsoring the TDO bill in the past and state that you hope we can count on your sponsorship again this session. Send the legislator the TDO Summary for Legislators 2021 v2 8-24-2021 sheet regardless of their support history. They may agree to co-sponsor without further discussion.

Continue with these directions. Review background information:

2. Listen to NYSAND TDO Initiative Video (about 15 minutes) along with pdf of slides; it provides detailed information to facilitate your meeting.
3. Review document “TDO Summary for Legislators 2021v3” (the video walks you through this document).
4. Review “TDO FAQ 3-2021” document to anticipate potential questions.
5. Email your Assembly Member to request a meeting. The Senate TDO bill passed unanimously in June 2021, so we need to focus on gaining support of the Assembly Members.
 - a. Tweak following sample email:

Hi, my name is xxxx and I am a registered dietitian and your constituent (address). I work at xx hospital (if also located in his/her district state that). I am writing to discuss bill A. 6398, which amends the law that



certified dietitians and nutritionists in NYS (NYS Education Law Article 157). The amendment would permit (not mandate) hospitals and long-term care facilities to privilege nutritionists to write therapeutic diet orders. This is essential to provide optimal nutrition therapy to patients, and increase operational efficiencies. I am attaching a document with more details and would like to meet with you to discuss further, especially how this bill can optimize and protect the health of your constituents. I will call your office to make an appointment.

6. Follow-up with a phone call to the local office to make an appointment with your elected official or aide.
 - a. *Script "Hi, my name is xxx, and I am a constituent of Assembly Member xxx. I am calling in reference to the email I sent on xx date regarding A.6398, which would allow certified nutritionists to write therapeutic diet orders in hospitals and long-term care facilities. I would like to make an appointment to further discuss this issue and how it impacts Assembly Member xx's constituents. I can speak with the assembly member or the aide who covers health care issues."* (Make the appointment)
 - i. You can suggest a virtual meeting if you are able to create a link or ask if the Assemble Member can send a link; if not ask for a phone meeting.
7. Prepare for the visit/call
 - a. 1 day prior, call to confirm meeting. Make sure the person you are meeting with has the "TDO Summary for Legislators 2021v3" document. Confirm if you are calling the office or sending a link, or if they are calling you or sending you a link.
 - b. Print "TDO cheat sheet" for quick review during visit (zoom/call).
8. Make or receive the call (it is OK if you're nervous and if your explanation is not smooth; this is common and he/she will usually help you. Remember the member wants your vote just as much as you want his/her support).
 - a. Use longer document to literally guide your conversation; read it if necessary (TDO summary for Legislators 2021v3.docx).
 - b. Add stories from your experience as you go, if possible.
 - c. Stop occasionally and ask if he/she has questions.
 - d. End with the formal "ask": "So can I count on you to co-sponsor bill A.6398?"
 - i. If yes,
 - Thank them for meeting with you and let them know you will check in a week to see if they have co-sponsored; if in a week they are not listed as a co-sponsor send another email
 - Email Josephine and our lobbyist Chrissy Rutigliano regarding your progress (josephine.connolly-schoonen@stonybrookmedicine.edu; crutigliano@rc.com)
 - ii. If non-comital, state you will follow-up in a month to further discuss; make another appointment
9. No need to worry about politics or your party affiliation, if any. This will not come up in the conversation and you should not bring it up.