**DOS AND DON'TS IN YOUR MEETING**

- **DO** be on time. If you are going to be late, call/text Cindy Hollister or a RESOLVE staff person (on Staff contact list) and we will update the Congressional/Senate office.

- **Do** your Homework! Be Prepared! Check out the websites for your Senators and Representative in advance. Review the information in the packets, including any biographical information about your Senator or Representative and which committee(s) they serve on, including the jurisdiction (i.e. responsibility) of those committees. Committee assignments illustrate the extra opportunity Members of Congress will have to vote on legislation being considered by that committee.

- **DO** build a bridge: compliment the Senator, Representative, or staffer by saying you are familiar with the lawmaker's track record of pro-family legislation and actions – and this is perfect because we are pro-family, too.

- **DON'T** get distracted! It is tempting to talk about other issues important to you, but it will dilute your message about infertility. Stay on the topic! You are here representing RESOLVE and talking about the legislation that we are supporting. It is important to be mindful and respectful of the limited time of your meeting.

- **DO** show respect for the staffer and **DON'T** be disappointed that you are not meeting with the Senator or Representative. Meetings with staffers are often more important than meeting the elected official and provide an opportunity to form a relationship. Staffers yield a lot of influence in their office; they research the issues, make recommendations to their bosses and push the agenda forward. It is critical that you make a strong impression about the importance of these initiatives with the staffer!

- **DO** stay positive and **DON'T** get defensive if you don't like the questions you are asked. While this is very personal to you, Members of Congress and their staffers are just trying to gather information and determine which issues should be prioritized among the many issues presented to them daily - and they may know nothing about this topic. Stick to the facts and stay calm, but feel free to show your passion for our cause.

- **DON'T** try to answer questions you don’t know the answers to; just note the question and convey that you will get back to them with a response. **PLEASE EMAIL RESOLVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU PROMISE TO DELIVER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.** We will help you follow up.

- **DO** leave behind hand-outs with the staffer.

- **DO** ask for the business cards of the people you met with. Confirm whether they prefer follow-up by phone or email.

- **DON'T** forget to follow up within two weeks of Advocacy Day, or perhaps on the train ride home or while waiting for your plane. Keep following up regularly, until you have an answer from the office.

- **DO** jot down highlights of your meeting afterwards so RESOLVE can utilize the information for further advocacy efforts. Use the Evaluation Form to report back on your meetings.

- **DO** use terms like “Pro-Family”, “infertility is a disease,” and “family building” when discussing infertility and the wish to have children.

- **DON'T** be apologetic about wanting to have children. You didn't CHOOSE to have infertility!

- **Do** Remember to thank the Senator, Representative or staffer for their time and **Do** thank them for their support of any of the legislative priorities that we support if you have learned they are on record in support or if they plan to be on record in support.