



## **Town hall meeting advocacy tips**

There is a saying that all politics is local. This is never more true than in August, when your member of Congress leaves the seclusion of Washington and go home to talk to and hear from their constituents: people like you. During this month, your voice is more powerful and more important than any lobbyist or special interest in Washington, D.C. Over the next few weeks, your representative will be available to meet with you in his or her district offices and to listen to you at town hall meetings and small community gatherings. Let your congressperson know what you think!

### **Town hall meetings**

Attending a “town hall” meeting featuring your member of Congress is a great opportunity to ask your representative direct questions about sentencing policy. Additionally, it is a good chance to educate your community about sentencing reform.

### **How to find a town hall meeting**

You can find town hall meetings by calling your representative’s local or national office and asking for a schedule of meetings in your area. You can find their phone number by following the instructions at this link.

### **What to do once you arrive at a town hall meeting**

Once there, be sure to introduce yourself to your legislator and briefly tell him/her that you support H.R. 3327 and H.R. 3245 (see FAMM’s talking points).

### **Ask a question! Town hall meetings are only effective if you speak up!**

Come with a question to ask your representative. FAMM has provided some sample questions in the background information below. When you ask your question, start by thanking your legislator for setting up the town hall meeting. When you ask your question, try to keep it short. Stay calm about what your representative is saying, even if he/she disagrees with your opinion.

### **Follow-up**

Following the meeting, be sure to let FAMM know how it went!

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