

Suggestions for Meeting with or Making Phone Calls to Your Senator or Representative:

When Meeting with Your Senator or Representative Make sure to:

- ☞ Call their office. Ask to speak with the scheduler.
- ☞ Give them your name and emphasize that you are a constituent and you would like to speak with your Representative or Senator about the DR Congo.
- ☞ Be prepared. Make sure to research what policies your representative has supported towards the DR Congo.
- ☞ Be aware that you may not be able to meet with the Senator or Representative but meeting with their staff is still important.
- ☞ Dress for the meeting in business attire. Bring with you a list of talking points, questions, and suggestions, as well as any articles you may have written for local media sources about the DR Congo.
- ☞ Leave them with materials such as a fact sheet, op-ed, etc.

Recommended Talking Points for Meetings and/or Phone Calls:

- ☞ **Explain:** You are a constituent with a passion and an interest in the DR Congo. Let your audience know why you care.
- ☞ **Remind:** Bill 2125: Democratic Republic of the Congo Relief, Security, and Democracy Promotion Act of 2006 was signed into law in December of 2006. The bill calls for a 25% increase in U.S. assistance for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a Special Envoy to resolve the situation in Eastern Congo, and urges the Administration to use its voice and vote at the United Nations Security Council to strengthen the U.N. peacekeeping force that is providing security in parts of the Congo.
- ☞ **Ask:** To stay engaged both in the near future and the long term. This means they need to continue to fund the peace keeping and humanitarian relief efforts in the Congo and to employ full diplomatic resources. Make this bill a reality rather than just rhetoric.
- ☞ **Ask:** To hold hearings on providing diplomatic and financial backing to a multilateral regional approach to dismantling the remaining local and foreign militia in eastern Congo—in particular, the FDLR, a Rwandan rebel group led by commanders involved in Rwanda's 1994 genocide.
- ☞ **Demand:** The continued support of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC). By simply showing an increased interest in this crisis the United States can make a substantial impact internationally.