

ODHA Lobby Day Tips for participants

This event is an opportunity to showcase to state decision makers the great things that hygienists do for their patients, how integral you are to the dental team and how you can be a tool to help eliminate an access to care barrier. We are trying to encourage job growth in this industry and bring awareness to the lack of access to care for underserved individuals.

- While the day may seem overwhelming because of the circumstances and the nature of talking with an elected official, do not feel scared or nervous. Many of these conversations are light in nature and are very cordial.
- Utilize the talking points sheet and provide the legislator talking points as a leave behind. You are also encouraged to talk about yourself! Consider the answers to these questions in preparing to speak in a conversation:
 - Why did you want to become a hygienist?
 - What kind of classes did/do you take?
 - Where do you go to school?
 - Will you stay in Ohio? Why or why not?
 - What would you change about the practice of dental hygiene?
 - Ask about their dental office experiences
- In most circumstances, a legislator may have multiple events on his or her calendar that day. So they may only stay a short period of time for the meeting. Do not be offended. Thank them for whatever time they spent with you. It is also appropriate to meet with staff members, they are just as valuable and help shape state policy as well.
- Do not worry if there is a question you cannot answer, simply respond that you do not know the answer, but offer to follow up with them to get the answer they are seeking. Ask for a business card so that you can follow-up. Seek guidance from another ODHA member or one of the lobbying team members for assistance.
- The lobby day is being held in the Statehouse and legislators will be in business attire and as representatives of your school and/or profession you are encouraged to dress accordingly. (Essentially, no jeans or scrubs!)
- Send a thank you note after you meet with your legislator. If you meet with staff, send the note to the legislator, praising their staff for the time provided.