

Join the COPD Caucus Phone Script Template

Hi, my name is _____ and I live in _____. I'm calling to ask you for a few minutes of your time to talk about my experiences with COPD as a [patient/caregiver/respiratory therapist] and to ask [Representative x/Senator x] to join the Congressional COPD Caucus.

Talking Points for Phone Call

* COPD affects 16 million Americans in the United States, with millions more undiagnosed and most people aren't diagnosed until they have lost over half of their lung function.

- Brief description of COPD experience (In 30 seconds or less let the staffer know if you are a patient, caregiver, Respiratory Therapist, etc.) and explain your connection to COPD.
- Talk about the Congressional COPD Caucus-
 - *Bipartisan, bicameral membership of senators and representatives across the aisle who help unify the voice of the COPD community, and raise awareness*
 - *The caucus supports federal research, champions COPD national action plan and hosts educational briefings*
 - *Supports legislation that creates positive national COPD policy*
 - *Lead by Senators Mike Crapo & Richard Durbin, and Representative Chris Stewart*
 - *Past initiatives have included supporting passage of legislation to make pulmonary rehabilitation a permanent benefit for Medicare beneficiaries, supporting new federal regulations to ease air travel for those with supplemental oxygen, and facilitating development of National Action Plan*
- I urge [Representative or Senator X] to join the Congressional COPD Caucus to support the 16 million individuals and X number of individuals [you can find this information and other statistics about your state at <https://www.copdfoundation.org/What-is-COPD/Understanding-COPD/Statistics.aspx>] in your state who are affected by COPD?
- Discussion

Optional Ad-On Meeting Request

Would I be able to set up an in-district appointment to meet with [Insert your senator/rep's name] in (in BLANK hometown/state) during a recess period to talk more about my experiences with COPD and the Congressional COPD Caucus?

- Thank you so much for your time, and I will follow up with more details in an email following this call.