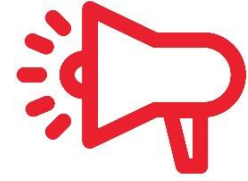


## BIRD DOGGING CANDIDATES & ELECTED OFFICIALS



When candidates or lawmakers are in your community, asking questions about kids' issues is a great way to show that their constituents want them to put kids first with smart policies and legislation.

### Tips for effectively engaging candidates and lawmakers:

#### Step 1: Find the Candidates and Lawmakers

- Check their official website, especially the events page to find where they will be.
- Check local news sources, including events and community forums.
- Join their email list. They often will tell you when they are holding events.
- Follow them on social media. Most candidates and lawmakers have a Facebook page and Twitter handle and will share information about upcoming events.

#### Step 2: Get Ready to Engage the Candidate or Lawmaker

- Work with SCAN staff on a great question. Have your question ready and practice saying it out loud so you're comfortable.
- Wear a SCAN t-shirt and bring a friend. The more people in SCAN gear present the more visible you will be and likely to gain attention.
- Arrive early and get the best spot. Try to place yourself where the candidate is most likely to see you. You might also be visible in press photos of the event as well.
- Be assertive (within reason). Often officials are swarmed when they leave the stage. A friendly smile will go a long way to you getting close to the official to ask your question.
- Introduce yourself, including your town and any relevant facts about you.
- Stay on message and only engage the official on the point at hand. Don't get distracted by the issues of the day—use your time to advocate for kids!
- If possible, take a picture with the elected official. Be sure to send it to the SCAN staff in your state. If you are on social media, you could share the picture there as well.

#### Step 3: Follow-up

- Back in the car or at home take a few minutes to jot down notes of what you asked the official and their response.
- If the candidate or lawmaker had specific questions, follow-up with their staff and provide additional information. Even better, try and setup a meeting with them to further discuss the issue.
- Share your experience with SCAN staff!