...meet with your Member of Congress

First, have a preliminary discussion. Host a meeting with any other advocates in your area or a related on-campus organization to get a number of how many students are interested. Decide what you’d like to talk to your member of Congress about—is there a sign-on letter? Appropriations ask? Do they cosponsor the Education for All Act yet?

call your Member of Congress’ (MOC) office and say you’d like to schedule a meeting (it’s okay to have a meeting with a staffer as opposed to the Member.) Make sure you specify whether you’d like to have the meeting in DC or in-district.

Then, Host a meeting with your team and figure out the following: What’s your ask? What might they object to? (Not enough time, money, etc.) What will you say if they object? What are your member’s motivators? (What are they known for? What drives them? Have they signed onto something like this in the past? How can you be most convincing?) With answers to these questions, you can make an agenda tailored to your MoC.

Plan! Agenda Example: Introductions. Your reason for being in the office (Hint: as an advocate for the 1 child out of school in every 10 children worldwide.) Thank you for past support (if applicable—if not find something to be gracious about—local work, another issue you care about etc.). Your ask. A personal story. Repeat your direct ask and then ask “what more information do you need to make this happen?” Time for questions and discussion.

Note: Never make up something. If you don’t know something, say “I don’t know and will find out for you.” Makes for a PERFECT follow-up!

Practice Ask someone to role-play the meeting with your team.

Call Go have great meeting!

Follow up with the office.

Let us know how it went! Email GCE-US at info@gce-us.org