

2022

Advocacy Roadmap



What do we mean by advocacy?

Advocacy is public support for or recommendation of a particular policy. The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation advocates for public policy changes on behalf of IBD patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers. We rely on personal stories from advocates impacted by IBD to help advance our policy initiatives. Together, we can make a difference!

What are the Foundation's 2022 advocacy priorities?

The Foundation's policy priorities are developed in collaboration with patient advisors as well as medical providers on the National Scientific Advisory Committee. Learn more on our [Be An Advocate](#) webpage.

- Protect and improve patient access to care
- Increase funding for medical research on IBD
- Increase the membership of the Congressional Crohn's & Colitis Caucus

Why should I advocate?

Your voice is your most powerful advocacy tool! Lawmakers frequently make decisions on policy issues that impact patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). These policies can affect your access to medical care as well as national funding for medical research. Lawmakers truly want to hear from the constituents they represent about the issues they care about—the best way to ensure that your needs are considered in policy decisions is by sharing your story and explaining how specific policies will affect you or your loved ones.

What about local advocacy?

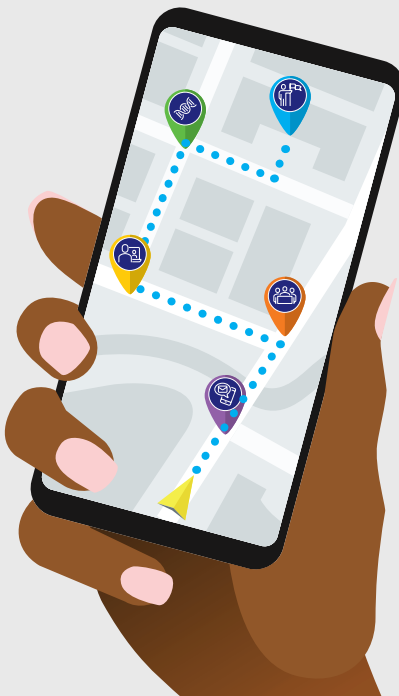
All politics is local and we will help you build relationships with your legislators throughout the year from your own home and at local town halls and meetings. Below are tips. Email us at advocacy@crohnscolitisfoundation.org for more information.

- Send template emails from your own email address
- Schedule a meeting with your legislators, virtual or in-person
- Attend virtual events hosted by your legislators and introduce yourself

How can I participate?

Please join us in advocating for public policy change to advance IBD medical research and improve patient access to care by signing up for the Advocacy Network (www.crohnscolitisfoundation.org/advocacy). We will email you monthly action alerts as well as any relevant instructions and legislative updates outlined below.

Don't forget — you can text "IBDADVOCACY" to 50457 to sign up to receive text alerts from the Foundation's Advocacy Team about important issues that could affect you!



Below is a list of action alerts and training opportunities that we will send you via the Advocacy Network every month in 2022. These are subject to change based on current events. We will occasionally email additional action items when legislation is moving and we need to make our voices heard.

Questions? Email advocacy@crohnscolitisfoundation.org

Month	Action Alert Topics	Justification
January	'Welcome Back to Congress' —an overview of IBD-related policies in 2022	The 117th Congress reconvenes in early January. Email your legislators a 'welcome letter' via the Action Center explaining IBD and our 2022 advocacy priorities.
February	Share your IBD stories	Your personal stories are your most important advocacy tool. We'll help you craft your story to send to your legislator, and connect it to our policy asks.
March	Support federal IBD research funding	Congress holds the power of the purse and usually begins considering spending decisions for the next fiscal year in March, including spending on medical research. A template email will be posted in the Action Center.
April	Day on the Hill 2022	This month, volunteers from across the nation will meet with their legislators in Washington, D.C. during the annual Day on the Hill. If you can't be there in person, you can still participate via social media and local outreach!
May	Follow-up is the chariot of genius!	Don't forget to follow up with your legislators after reaching out to them during Day on the Hill—whether you participated in meetings, or sent messages via email or social media. Thank them for their time, and restate the policy ask and why it is important to you.
June	Schedule in-district visits	Work with our team to schedule your summer in-district advocacy meeting, and learn strategies for successful communication. We'll ensure you feel fully prepared to meet with your legislators.
July	Take a deeper dive into health policy	Tune in for a deeper dive on a prescient issue that you can discuss with your legislators in August.
August	Hold a local meeting with your legislator	It's summer recess for Congress! Work with a team to meet with your legislators locally and/or participate in a public event—in person or virtually. After your visit, send an email to reinforce your requests.
September	Support federal research on IBD	When legislators return to Congress in September, they will be tasked with finalizing the funding bills for the next year. Email your legislators to remind them to support IBD research funding.
October	Public policy update	The year isn't done and there is still time to follow up with your legislators on your policy asks. We'll share information on our progress in gaining support for key legislative items.
November	Research and advocacy overview	The federal government funds medical research on IBD. Learn what the government is doing and how the Foundation's research supports the research pipeline for finding cures.
December	Crohn's & Colitis Awareness Week	Participate in our advocacy activities for Crohn's & Colitis Awareness Week!

Don't forget to tell us about your outreach! Email advocacy@crohnscolitisfoundation.org if you had a positive phone call and/or met with your legislator so that we can keep track of your efforts. Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions that you have.

Thank you for your advocacy efforts—we could not do this without volunteers like you, and your voice truly can make an impact. Happy advocating!