

2026 Day on the Hill – Meeting Script & Talking Points

Say Thanks (30 seconds)

Meeting Leader:

“Thank you for taking the time to meet with us today. We are here representing the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation.”

Introductions (2 minutes)

Each team member introduces themselves using this format:

“My name is [**Name**], and I am a constituent from [**City, State**]. I am an IBD [**patient/caregiver/provider**]. Now I will pass it on to [**next team member’s name**].”

After the final team member finishes:

“Now I will pass it back to [**Meeting Leader’s name**].”

State the Asks (1 minute)

Meeting Leader:

“We are here today to ask your boss to:

- Co-sponsor the Safe Step Act
- Sign onto our letter urging the FDA to modernize the pediatric IBD drug approval process”
- Support IBD research funding

Describe IBD (2 minutes)

Meeting Leader:

“Are you familiar with Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis? These are chronic conditions collectively known as inflammatory bowel disease, or IBD. As many as 1 in 100 Americans live with IBD. Each patient experiences IBD differently, and patients need access to the right treatments at the right time.

Now I will pass it on to [**Storyteller 1**], who can share their experience and how these initiatives could help patients with IBD.”

Share Your Story & Expand on the Safe Step Act (3 minutes)

Storyteller 1:

Briefly share your IBD story, focusing on timely access to medicines. Example:

“When I was 18, I was required by my insurer to go through a step therapy protocol, during which time I became sicker and sicker. By the time I was approved for the treatment my doctor and I initially wanted, I was too sick to be a good candidate for that treatment and had to undergo surgery.”

Key Issue – Step Therapy:

- Step therapy = insurer requires patients to try a preferred drug before covering the one prescribed.
- Delays care, worsens outcomes, and raises costs.

The Safe Step Act would:

1. Require a clear exemption process.
2. Establish a timeline for responses.
3. Define medical circumstances for exemptions.

The Ask:

- “Will Senator/Representative [**Last Name**] co-sponsor the Safe Step Act?”

Transition:

“Now I will pass it on to [**Storyteller 2**], who will share their experience.” [Share Your Story & Expand on Importance of IBD Medications for Children \(3 minutes\)](#)

Storyteller 2:

1. Begin with your IBD story—keep it brief and personal.
2. Then explain why speeding up the approval of IBD medications for children is so important:

“Despite the rate of children being diagnosed with Crohn’s disease or Ulcerative Colitis going way up in the last decade, there’s been almost no progress in new types of therapies to treat them. Too often Doctors are forced to prescribe medications to their pediatric patients that are only approved for use by adults. We need Congress to let the FDA know how important it is make pediatric IBD therapies a priority.”

3. **The Ask:**

“Will Senator/Representative [**Last Name**] sign our letter to the FDA?”

Transition:

“Now I will pass it on to [**Storyteller 3**], who can share their experience.”

Share Your Story & Expand on IBD Research (3 minutes)

Storyteller 2:

Share your IBD experience and why research matters. Example:

“When I was first diagnosed, the only treatment available was corticosteroids. They caused weight gain, trouble sleeping, and long-term damage to my health. Now I take a biologic, which specifically targets the cause of IBD without those side effects. Without NIH research, biologics would never have been developed.”

The Promise of Research:

- NIH is identifying people at risk for IBD years before symptoms.
- Research could prevent IBD before it starts.
- Future breakthroughs depend on sustained funding.

The Ask:

“Will Senator/Representative [**Last Name**] work to protect funding for IBD research at the NIH?”

Transition:

“Now I will pass it back to [**Meeting Leader**].”

Restate the Asks (1 minute)

Meeting Leader:

“As discussed, will your boss support the Safe Step Act, sign our letter to the FDA, and protect IBD research funding? What other information can we provide as you consider these asks?”

Close (1 minute)

Note Taker:

“Thanks again for meeting with us. We’ll follow up with answers to any questions. Could we get the best email address to reach you?”

Ask for a photo with the staffer/legislator to post on social media, tagging the office!

Meeting Leader:

“We appreciate your consideration of these issues and will follow up shortly.”