

Advocacy Tactics:

In-Person Meetings with Policymakers

A few things to keep in mind

Policymakers at all levels of government want to hear from their constituents. However, they are often extremely busy. Remember that:

- Appointments with policymakers usually range from 10-20 minutes and you should prepare accordingly.
- You may not meet with the policymaker themselves, but one of their aides who advises and influences them on the issue that you are there to discuss.
- Conference rooms and office space are in high-demand in some places. It is possible that you will meet in an office lobby, hallway, or cafeteria.



Setting up your meeting

Meeting in-person with elected officials is the most effective advocacy tactic. To schedule a meeting:

- Call or email the policymaker's office (contact information is available online).
- Ask to speak with the scheduler, introduce yourself as a constituent, and tell them where you live.
- Tell them which issue, policy, or piece of legislation you would like to discuss with your policymaker and request a meeting.
- If you cannot meet directly with lawmaker, you can ask to schedule an appointment with their legislative assistant focused on that issue.



Prepare for your meeting

Whether you are meeting with the policymaker as an individual or as a representative of PFLAG, you should arrive with an agenda. To prepare for your meeting:

- Decide what you'd like to discuss with the policymaker and your goal for the meeting.
- Educate yourself and prepare 1-2 powerful talking points.
- Share your personal story and how the issue you're there to discuss will impact you and your family.
- Plan a specific ask (e.g., "Please vote yes for this policy that would keep books with LGBTQ+ characters on the shelves at our community's public library.")



Follow up

After meeting with your policymaker, be sure to use your conversation as a launching pad for more engagement!

- Send a thank you note to the person that you met with; be sure to include any follow-up info that you promised.
- Thank the policymaker for taking your position on a bill, if applicable.
- When the next opportunity to connect with your legislator arises, schedule the meeting!

PFLAG National has template thank you messages you can use!



Remember: Your voice is needed!

UNLESS SOMEONE LIKE YOU
CARES A WHOLE AWFUL LOT, NOTHING
IS GOING TO GET BETTER. IT'S NOT!

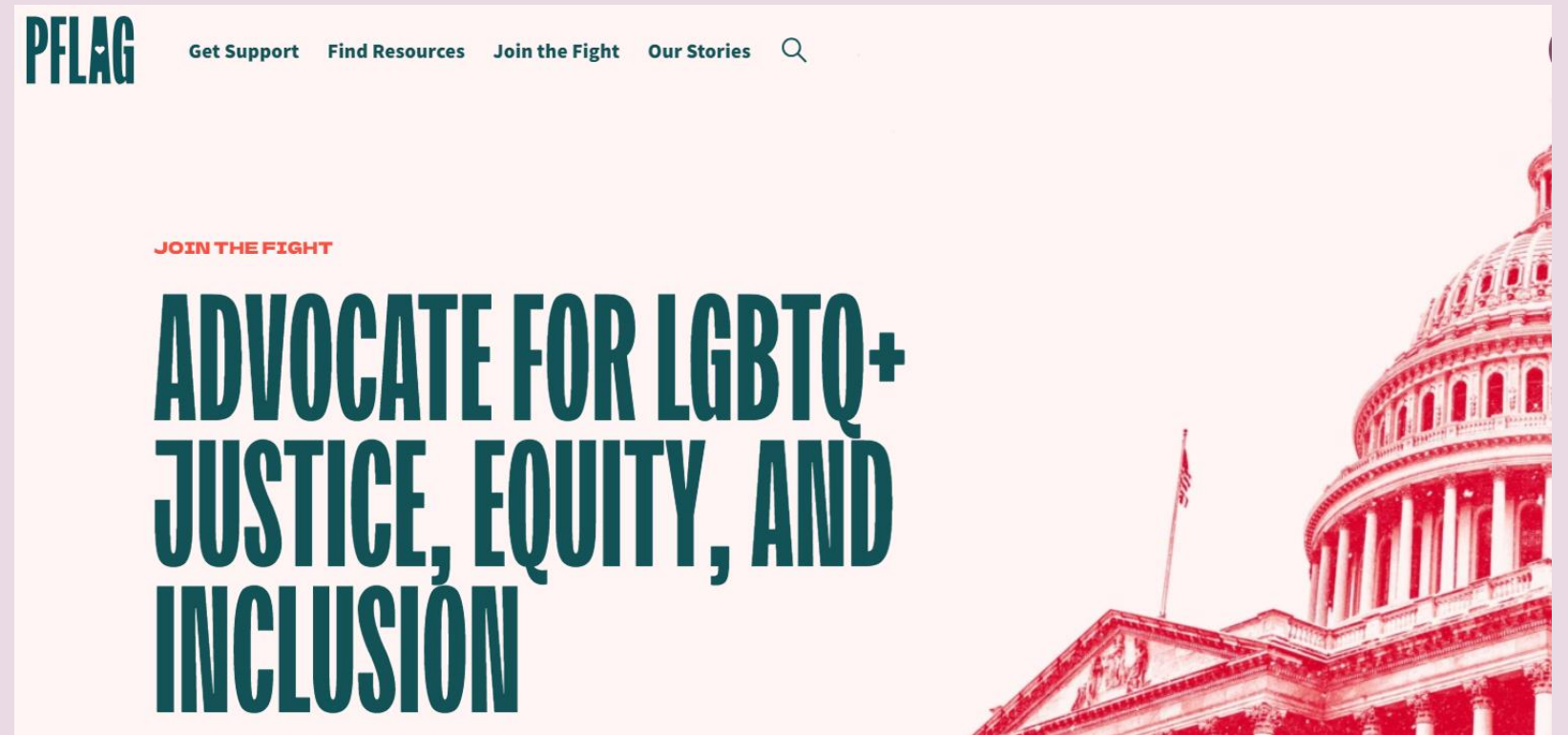
-Dr. Seuss



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pflag.org/jointhefight

Find advocacy tools for your PFLAG Chapter, resources to help you protect LGBTQ+ kids and families, and more!



[#PFLAGVOTES](https://twitter.com/PFLAGVOTES)



THANKS YOU

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