

Great Comebacks

“Responses to make in special situations”

Following are some situations you may encounter in meetings with legislators and/or their staff and suggested ways to help you control the situation.

Legislator doesn't think it is fair to favor diabetes or any other disease over others...

Answers diabetes advocates can give:

- Cost of diabetes in and to Kentucky
- Growth of diabetes epidemic in Kentucky
- Death and disability in Kentucky due to diabetes
- Quality of life improved, lives and dollars saved by supporting efforts to address diabetes in Kentucky
- My/our visit here with you today represents the views of many people back home in the district who could not be in Frankfort today, knowing that diabetes is important to your constituents makes diabetes an important issue to you as well, wouldn't you agree?

If the legislator says individuals with diabetes are responsible for their own diabetes and need to take individual responsibility for it, respond this way:

- Explain your own/child's/spouse's/etc. diabetes (*type 1 is not preventable and requires insulin no matter what person with type 1 does or does not do*)
- Many people with type 2 work hard to control their diabetes but may suffer complications developed before they were diagnosed and often struggle with changes as their diabetes changes
- Talk about the struggles of patients to control their diabetes... it takes more than individual responsibility. You see a lot of individual responsibility when people are educated about their diabetes and how to manage it and have access to diabetes care items.

If the legislator says s/he doesn't think diabetes is that bad or difficult to live with include the following in your response and try for a commitment:

- Invite the Senator to visit a diabetes camp or a diabetes resource site to see first hand how people are, indeed, affected by diabetes.
- We would really like to know that we can count on your support for efforts to reduce the amount diabetes in Kentucky. Even though there are only three of us here, we represent many people with diabetes back home in your district. They would like to meet with you too, but couldn't make the trip to Frankfort today. If you will agree to meet with them the next time you are home, we'll be happy to work with you and your staff to arrange a meeting with them.

Legislator wants to talk sports (basketball) , weather, family, awards, anything but what advocates are there about - diabetes.

Diabetes advocates may use these suggested responses:

- Diabetes is important to me because I live with it every day and I would like to tell you about my experience and how education has helped me...
- We recognize that as a legislator you have an very busy schedule and we don't want to take much of your time, but need to speak with you about diabetes in KY.
- My kids play sports despite having diabetes, which is what we would really like to speak with you about today.

Legislator says "OK, so what specifically is it you want me to do for you?":

Ask for support of bills, programs, or funding aimed at fighting diabetes which will be considered in the current session of the legislature:

- Preserving both private and public (Medicaid) insurance coverage for people with diabetes.
- Continuing efforts to improve physical activity in schools (support HB 299 and SB 110).
- Funding the KY Diabetes Research Board.
- Supporting HB 383 re: proposals funded by the KY Diabetes Research Board.