



## Continuing Series: Congressional Local Site Visits

Inviting your legislator to visit your practice, clinic, hospital, or residency program gives you a unique opportunity to show him or her how important your work is, especially during times of uncertain budgets and potential cuts. These visits are a cornerstone to successful advocacy.

This year, ACOG is working hard to once and for all repeal the SGR. One way we're driving this message home is by helping you host visits with your US Senators and Representatives where you work.

On October 31, Dr. Holly Puritz and her colleagues at Mid-Atlantic Women's Care hosted Representative Edward Rigell (R-VA) in Norfolk, VA. Congressman Rigell was pleased to see his constituents doing what they do best. Dr. Puritz thanked him for signing the Flores-Maffei SGR Repeal Congressional Sign-on Letter and spoke to him about the next steps and need for his support. She provided him background on how long ACOG has been lobbying for SGR reform and the cost of another SGR patch, rather than a full fix. He learned about private medical practice and the difficulty of being a small business owner as well as a healthcare provider. They also discussed other important issues, including graduate medical education funding and the Affordable Care Act, and their effects on small private practices.



After the visit, Representative Rigell said "What a pleasure it was to meet Dr. Puritz and her colleagues at Mid-Atlantic Women's Care. From the moment we were greeted I was impressed by their warmth, professionalism and concern for their patients. We left with an even deeper understanding of why prenatal care is so critically important, and with practical ideas to help address the challenges facing OBGYN's."

As obstetrician-gynecologists, our goal is to provide the best health care for women and to partner with Congress to ensure women have access to the high quality health care. Hosting your elected representatives at your practice is a great way to show them your work and commitment firsthand and cement a lasting relationship.

