You’ve watched the training video about Fight CRC’s legislative priorities and looked over the issue briefs. Now it is time to think about how you connect these policies to your personal experience. This guide will help you think through how you talk about these policy priorities with your elected officials. You don’t have to be a policy expert, but taking some time to think through how these policies and programs connect to your story can help you make a meaningful impact in your meetings with policymakers. We recommend printing this sheet and making notes!

The CDC Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP)
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funds the Colorectal Cancer Prevention Program (CRCCP) to increase colorectal cancer (CRC) screening among people ages 50-75, particularly in underserved communities.

1. The goal of the CRCCP is to increase CRC screening. Why is increasing access to colorectal cancer screening important to you?

2. Were you or someone you know diagnosed with CRC as a result of routine CRC screening? If so, elaborate on that experience. If not, why is early screening important to you?

Example Talking Points: I ask that you support $70 million for the CDC’s Colorectal Cancer Control Program, a program that helps increase colorectal cancer screening rates in underserved communities. Timely access to colorectal cancer screening is important because…. [insert answers from above].
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) & National Cancer Institute (NCI)
The NCI and the NIH are at the leading edge of breakthrough medical research and around the world. The NCI, in particular, funds everything from basic science to clinical trials for new cancer therapies and prevention methods.

1. The goals of the NCI and NIH are to support research toward, better treatment options, more effective prevention methods and ultimately to find a cure for colorectal cancer. Why is research for better treatment options important to you?

2. The NIH and NCI use some of their funding to support clinical trials. Were you or someone you know involved in a clinical trial? Why are clinical trials important to you?

Example Talking Points: I ask that you support $46.111 billion for the NIH and $7.609 billion for the NCI so that they can continue and expand their research to provide better treatment options, more effective prevention methods, and ultimately a cure for colorectal cancer. This is particularly important to me because more research would mean OR research allowed me to....[insert answers from above].
The Colorectal Cancer Research Program at the Department of Defense (DoD)
The DoD funds high risk high reward research for a multitude of diseases, and while colorectal
cancer is eligible, it does not have a dedicated research program in the Congressionally
Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP). That means every year, it has to compete with
other cancers for funding. We want to change that by securing consistent funding and
establishing a program dedicated to colorectal cancer.

1. DoD research programs focus on diseases that impact active duty and retired military
personnel. Colorectal cancer has been increasing among young people - a key
demographic of active duty military personnel. Were you or someone you know
diagnosed with CRC at a young age (under 45)? Why is having research dedicated to
early-age onset colorectal cancer important to you?

2. The CDMRP serves those in the military and their families, but also the greater
American public. Were you or someone you know in the military?

Example Talking Points: I ask that you support $20 million to create a Colorectal Cancer
Research Program within the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical
Research Program. A growing number of young people are being diagnosed with colorectal
cancer and we must do more. Lives are at stake. Increasing funding for colorectal cancer
research is important to be because…[insert answers from above]

BONUS: Do you think you have a great story that aligns with our legislative priorities?
Contact us at advocacy@fightcrc.org or fill out our Share Your Story form!