

NHS bursaries Westminster lobby: Wednesday 25 May

A lobby of parliament will take place on Wednesday 25 May. The lobby will aim to convince MPs to speak out about the cuts to NHS bursaries, with a particular focus on Conservative MPs. Below is everything you need to know in order to take part.

What is a lobby of parliament?

A lobby of parliament involves a number of people meeting their MPs in Westminster about a particular issue on a single day. The 'Save NHS bursaries' lobby is being coordinated with a coalition of trade unions and will take place on 25 May.

Why hold a lobby of parliament?

A lobby of parliament is an effective way to meet as many MPs as possible and convince them to speak out against the changes.

At the lobby we are particularly focussing on meeting Conservative MPs who may be able to force the government to rethink their plans.

To do this we are asking UNISON branches if they can bring members to the lobby who have a Conservative as either their home or term time MP if a student.

Wednesday 25 May was chosen because it is one of the last days that parliament will sit before the EU referendum period begins.

Joining the lobby in five steps

1. Your MP meetings will be most effective if you bring student members who currently receive bursaries to the lobby. However, other members may want to raise concerns about the risk to patient safety caused by scrapping NHS bursaries.
2. Student members can often lobby their home MPs as well as their term time MPs. We must use this advantage to ensure Conservative MPs are lobbied because they are the only party that wants to scrap NHS bursaries and they have a majority.
3. Where possible meetings should be arranged in advance. Members can contact their MP to request a meeting using this [online form](#). If they don't receive a reply in a week or two, phone 020 7219 3000 and ask to be put through to the MP's office to confirm the meeting.
4. Once you have an idea of how many members are coming to the lobby, make sure you book travel to London. Think about organising joint travel with other branches of UNISON or your local student union.
5. Let us know if you are coming to the lobby and if you know how many members you are bringing by emailing j.randall@unison.co.uk.

On the day

- Registration for the lobby will be open **from 10am onwards in the Central Hall Westminster**, which is a short distance from parliament (address and map [here](#)).
- Briefings to help members have **effective meetings with their MPs** on the cuts to bursaries will take place throughout the day in the Central Hall Westminster.
- Stewards will be on hand to direct members from the Central Hall Westminster to parliament, with attendees entering through the Cromwell Green entrance ([map](#)).
- Inside parliament, members can base themselves in **Committee Room 10**, where briefings will also be available.
- Members should where possible have set up [meetings in advance](#). However if they have not managed to they can ask for a meeting in parliament on the day, a process known as 'Green Carding'. Guidance will be available on how to do so.
- A **rally with a range of speakers** from student campaigners to representatives of trade unions will take place in the Central Hall Westminster from 15.00 until 16.30.

Time	What's happening	Location
10.00 – 15.00	Registration for lobby attendees. Briefings for members meeting their MPs.	Central Hall Westminster: Aldersgate Room
11.15 – 14.45	Base inside parliament for members meeting MPs. Opportunity for further briefings.	Committee Room 10
15.00 – 16.30	Rally with a range of speakers including student campaigners and representatives from all participating trade unions.	Central Hall Westminster: Aldersgate Room