



## Legislative Visit Form

Your Name and other advocates attending the visit: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregational Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Senator or Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Person you spoke with: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Visit: \_\_\_\_\_

Visit was (circle one): phone call Capitol office District office Event/Other

Issues or Topics Discussed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Legislator's Comments & Response: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Follow-Up Action: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Legislative Visit Tips and Information

Legislative visits are one of the best ways to participate in our democracy and make your voice heard. Texans of faith have strong principles and ideas about how things should be. Our goal must be to make things better, one step at a time—and the way to do that is to work together with our elected officials.

*"The best way to ensure your priorities are my priorities as your Congressman is to devote my time listening. Please come by and let me know what's on your mind."* -U.S. Representative Lloyd Doggett

### **Tips for Effective Legislative Visits**

To find out who represents you, go to <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us>

For lots more tips on how to make your visit a success, go to:  
<http://texasimpact.org/LegislativeVisits2009>

- **Have some facts on hand.** We have resources! Visit our website for information about health care, criminal justice, or the environment, or give us a call. We are here to help.
- **Dress appropriately and be positive.** Thank your legislator for his or her time, both when you begin and end the meeting.
- **Go with two or three others to be most effective.** Too few people, and it's easy for the conversation to veer off course. Too many people, and each person's impact is minimized. Remember to assign a note-taker so you can follow up on things you and the legislator discuss.
- **Focus on one topic.** Decide ahead of time what your priority issue is, and focus on that. You can go back another time to discuss another topic.
- **Tell the legislator who you are.** Put yourself in a community context—your neighborhood, your children's schools, your employer, your faith community.
- **Listen to your legislator.** What you learn about his or her thinking can help you be more effective. Ask questions that require specific answers.
- **Tell the truth.** If you don't know the answer to a question, say so! Respectfully tell the legislator that you will find the answer and will be back in touch.
- **Follow up.** Send the legislator a thank you note. Letters by mail are more effective than e-mail, and they reinforce the personal relationship you are developing.
- **Share the good news! Fill out our online form or give us a call!** We want to know just how many Texans of faith are putting their faith into action by doing legislative visits.

### **Done with your visit? Great! Please tell us all about it!**

Complete the form online:

<http://texasimpact.org/visitform>

Or print, complete and mail to:

Texas Impact  
221 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 403  
Austin, TX 78701

For more information, email or call Texas Impact, or visit us on the web: [www.texasimpact.org](http://www.texasimpact.org)  
221 East 9th Street, Ste. 403 Austin, Texas 78701. 512.472.3903. [outreach@texasimpact.org](mailto:outreach@texasimpact.org)