

TEXAS IMPACT

Texas Impact was established by Texas religious leaders in 1973 to be a voice in the Texas legislative process for the shared religious social concerns of Texas' faith communities. Texas Impact is supported by more than two-dozen Christian, Jewish and Muslim denominational bodies, hundreds of local congregations, ministerial alliances and interfaith networks, and thousands of people of faith throughout Texas.

Support

HB 871 by Roberts

Providing information for parents in crisis about voluntary options for respite care and other assistance so children don't end up in the child welfare system

House Human Services Committee hearing Monday, March 13

Representatives: Raymond, Frank, Keough, Klick, Miller, Minjarez, Rose, Swanson, Wu

HB1408 by Cortez

Providing 12 months continuous Medicaid eligibility for children

House Human Services Committee hearing Monday, March 13

Representatives: Raymond, Frank, Keough, Klick, Miller, Minjarez, Rose, Swanson, Wu

HB199 by Bernal

Allowing more counties to participate in the countywide polling place program

House Elections Committee hearing Monday, March 13

Representatives: Laubenberg, Israel, Anderson, Fallon, Larson, Reynolds, Swanson

HB 630 by Howard

Requiring Internet broadcast and archiving of open meetings of the Health and Human Services Commission, health and human services agencies, and related advisory entities

House Government Transparency and Operation hearing Monday, March 13

Representatives: Elkins, Capriglione, Gonzales, Lucio, Shaheen, Tinderholt, Uresti

Oppose

SB2 by Bettencourt

Lowering the property tax rollback rate from 8% to 4%

Senate Finance hearing Tuesday, March 14

Senators: Nelson, Hinojosa, Bettencourt, Birdwell, Hancock, Huffman, Kolkhorst, Nichols, Schwertner, Seliger, Taylor, Uresti, Watson, West, Whitmire

SB103 by Hall

Pre-empting local communities from banning single-use plastic bags

Senate Business and Commerce hearing Tuesday, March 14

Senators: Hancock, Creighton, Campbell, Estes, Nichols, Schwertner, Taylor, Whitmire, Zaffrini

SB4 by Perry

Anti-"sanctuary cities"

House State Affairs hearing Wednesday, March 15

Representatives: Cook, Giddings, Craddick, Farrar, Geren, Guillen, King, Kuempel, Meyer, Oliveira, Paddie,

Urge Lawmakers: Updated - Fund Kids Before Concrete!

ACTION ALERT: Urge lawmakers to support House Concurrent Resolution 108 by Zerwas to “undedicate” a portion of sales tax collections dedicated to the State Highway Fund to prevent cuts to children’s services.

Budget leaders warn that the state has less general revenue available for the upcoming biennium than for the current one—even though sales tax and other GR collections are expected to increase—because the state has dedicated so much revenue to the State Highway Fund.

Lt. Governor Patrick said earlier in the Session that the Legislature would need to cut the budget, and that cuts would come primarily from health, human services, and education. But Texas already is not keeping up with need in these areas, and we need to spend significantly more on foster care services to settle a federal lawsuit and ensure children aren’t hurt or killed in the state’s custody.

Luckily, voters have left lawmakers discretion to roll back portions of the highway dedications if conditions warrant it.

Urge your representatives to commit to vote to reduce sales tax transfers to the State Highway Fund instead of cutting services to children by supporting HCR 108 by Zerwas.

Weekly Witness Call Scripts

Attached is a list of toll free numbers for Committee members referenced on the first page. The full list of House and Senate members is at www.texasimpact.org/action. Using the toll free numbers allow Texas Impact staff to track how many calls are going in to each office.

It's especially helpful if your own senator or representative is a member of the committee; however, even if you don't live in the district of any committee members, you still should call all the members of the committee and let them know how you feel about the bill.

Sample Script

Hello, my name is _____ and I live in _____. I am calling to thank Representative/Senator _____ for his/her service and to let you know that I and members of my congregation are praying for the Representative/Senator and his/her staff.

I'm calling about HB/SB _____ by _____. That bill is in _____ (name of the committee the bill is in). I support/oppose the bill and here's why:

I want to urge the Representative/Senator to support/oppose HB/SB _____. Can you tell me how the Representative/Senator plans to vote on the bill, and if there is any information she/he needs to help make a decision about how to vote?

Don't forget to thank the staff member you are talking to at the end of the call, even if you disagree with their boss on the issue or bill—they are working hard and appreciate being appreciated!

In the past members have occasionally blocked our toll free number because of high call volume from people of faith. We want them to hear your voice, so if you call twice and received busy signals, email engagement@texasimpact.org and we will update the number.

This week's Weekly Witness sponsored by:

- *Platinum Sponsor: Rev. Dr. T. Randall Smith and Rev. Sandra W. Smith*
- *Platinum Sponsor: Members of Friends Congregational Church, College Station*
 - *Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church, Houston*
 - *Silver Sponsor: Friends of the Environment*

For updated information, visit www.texasimpact.org, follow us on Facebook or Twitter or contact engagement@texasimpact.org

Texas Impact is a membership organization. Join Texas Impact and be part of Texas' oldest and largest interfaith action network! For more information, visit <http://texasimpact.org/join>

House Human Services Committee		
	Toll Free No.	Capitol Room No.
Rep Richard Raymond	(877) 882-3837	1W.2
Rep James Frank	(877) 889-9761	E2.604
Rep Mark Keough	(877) 694-8287	E2.402
Rep Stephanie Klick	(877) 638-6346	E2.904
Rep Rick Miller	(877) 541-8939	E2.822
Rep Ina Minjarez	(877) 828-8145	E2.312
Rep Toni Rose	(877) 440-7198	E2.310
Rep Valoree Swanson	(877) 872-0534	E2.802
Rep Gene Wu	(877) 243-4531	E2.718

House State Affairs		
Rep Byron Cook	(877) 431-7693	GW.7
Rep Helen Giddings	(877) 207-1547	GW.11
Rep Tom Craddick	(877) 270-4551	1W.9
Rep Jessica Farrar	(877) 786-3597	1N.8
Rep Charlie Geren	(877) 686-9751	GW.15
Rep Ryan Guillen	(877) 264-5827	1W.3
Rep Ken King	(877) 478-0875	E2.410
Rep John Kuempel	(877) 887-7926	E2.422
Rep Morgan Meyer	(877) 250-5263	E1.318
Rep Rene Oliveira	(877) 846-8715	3N.6
Rep Chris Paddie	(877) 814-2492	E2.502
Rep Eddie Rodriguez	(877) 230-7937	4S.5
Rep John Smithee	(877) 414-2072	1W.10

House Elections Committee		
Rep Jodie Laubenberg	(877) 653-2197	1W.4
Rep Celia Israel	(877) 269-4491	E2.212
Rep Rodney Anderson	(877) 789-1283	E1.414
Rep Pat Fallon	(877) 790-4933	E2.722
Rep Lyle Larson	(877) 754-8247	E2.406
Rep Ron Reynolds	877-211-7526	E2.308
Rep Valoree Swanson	(877) 872-0534	E2.802

House Government Transparency and Operation		
Rep Gary Elkins	(877) 861-2372	4N.3
Rep Giovanni Capriglione	(877) 852-6423	E2.610
Rep Larry Gonzales	(877) 400-2783	E2.418
Rep Eddie Lucio	(877) 861-6898	GN.8
Rep Matt Shaheen	(877) 863-2668	E2.208
Rep Tony Tinderholt	(877) 754-0462	E1.422
Rep Tomas Uresti	(877) 639-5204	E2.712

Senate Business and Commerce		
Sen Kelly Hancock	(877) 629-5830	1E.9
Sen Brandon Creighton	(877) 526-7235	E1.606
Sen Donna Campbell	(877) 228-1980	3E.8
Sen Craig Estes	(877) 293-0661	3E.18
Sen Robert Nichols	(877) 415-4659	E1.704
Sen Charles Schwertner	(877) 546-9356	E1.806
Sen Larry Taylor	(877) 506-1746	3E.10
Sen John Whitmire	(877) 378-5879	1E.13
Sen Judith Zaffrini	(877) 415-5347	1E.14

Senate Finance		
Sen Jane Nelson	(877) 291-3758	1E.5
Sen Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa	(877) 398-4710	3E.6
Sen Paul Bettencourt	(877) 618-2937	3E.16
Sen Brian Birdwell	(877) 879-6216	E1.706
Sen Kelly Hancock	(877) 629-5830	1E.9
Sen Joan Huffman	(877) 392-3482	1E.15
Sen Lois Kolkhorst	(877) 419-2794	GE.4
Sen Robert Nichols	(877) 415-4659	E1.704
Sen Charles Schwertner	(877) 546-9356	E1.806
Sen Kel Seliger	(877) 475-6853	1E.12
Sen Larry Taylor	(877) 506-1746	3E.10
Sen Carlos Uresti	(877) 431-0078	4E.2
Sen Kirk Watson	(877) 341-1789	E1.804
Sen Royce West	(877) 207-7496	1E.3
Sen John Whitmire	(877) 378-5879	1E.13