

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.

Bills in Calendars as of Noon on May 1, 2017

SUPPORT

HB 199 by Bernal

*Removing cap on number of counties that can choose to vote countywide
Sent to Calendars on April 3; Considered on April 27*

HJR 37 & HB 471 by Johnson

*Allows credit unions to incentivize savings by conducting a prize raffle
Sent to Calendars on April 7 & 11, respectively*

HB 337 by Collier

*Mental health bill to ensure people released from county jail can still get treatment upon release
Sent to Calendars on April 24*

HB 1968 by Bernal

*Ensures that when children "age out" of foster care, they are given the proper documents and ID's
Sent to Calendars on April 25*

HB 482 by Walle

*Goals for caseload limits for CPS caseworkers, investigators, and abuse hotline call centers
Sent to Calendars on April 26*

HB 1314 by Israel

*Pregnant women arrested to be released on personal bond if no violent prior offenses
Sent to Calendars on April 27*

HB 1864 by Thompson & SB 30 by West

*Training for drivers and police regarding interactions with law enforcement during traffic stops
Sent to Calendars April 28*

HB 3956 by Geren & SB 24 by Huffman

*No subpoenaing sermons delivered by a religious leader
Sent to Calendars April 28*

HB 1533 by Farrar

*Do not count the vehicles as an asset in determining SNAP eligibility
Sent to Calendars May 1.*

HB 2664 by Miller

*Nutrition and fitness standards at child-care facilities and training for those employees
Sent to Calendars May 1*

HB 3729 by White

Alleviates the number of ways a person can get sent back to prison just for being poor
Sent to Calendars May 1

HB 3151 by Sheffield

Creates a pilot to coordinate renewal of Medicaid for all the children in a household
Reported on April 24. Needs to arrive in Calendars soon...

HB 2395 by Collier

Testing for lead contamination in public school drinking water
Reported on April 27. Needs to arrive in Calendars soon...

OPPOSE

HB 1911 by White

Unlicensed carry. Houses of worship would have to buy new signs. Reduces criminal penalty.
Sent to Calendars on April 26

HB 3859 by Frank

Allows religious foster care providers to assert a religious belief in order to opt out of contract provisions
Sent to Calendars on April 27

HB 3081 by Capriglione

Prohibits and overturns local ordinances municipalities have passed to regulate payday and auto title lenders
Sent to Calendars on May 1

House Calendars Committee		
Rep. Todd Hunter	(877) 338-8391	1W.11
Rep. Donna Howard	(877) 251-2872	E1.504
Rep. Roberto Alonzo	(877) 352-0220	1N.12
Rep. Trent Ashby	(877) 431-9843	E2.414
Rep. Byron Cook	(877) 431-7693	GW.7
Rep. Sarah Davis	(877) 855-3443	GW.4
Rep. Charlie Geren	(877) 686-9751	GW.15
Rep. Helen Giddings	(877) 207-1547	GW.11
Rep. Kyle Kacal	(877) 398-7905	E2.412
Rep. Ken King	(877) 478-0875	E2.410
Rep. Linda Koop	(877) 746-7561	E1.406
Rep. Poncho Nevarez	(877) 382-6278	E1.508
Rep. Chris Paddie	(877) 814-2492	E2.502
Rep. Dade Phelan	(877) 879-6026	E1.324
Rep. Toni Rose	(877) 440-7198	E2.310

Weekly Witness Call Scripts

Attached is a list of toll free numbers for Committee members referenced on the Action Alert. 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*
 - *Platinum Sponsor: Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church, Houston*
- *Silver Sponsor: Central Texas MFSA on behalf of Austin Region Justice for our Neighbors*

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>