

★ TEXAS IMPACT ACTION ALERT

Week of March 6, 2023

The month of March marks the beginning of “committee season” in a Texas legislative session. The first week is often a “warm up” week, and committees in both chambers have scheduled hearings on bills we support.

Support Water Cremation: SB 105 by Johnson

SB 105 would authorize water cremation, also known as aquamation and alkaline hydrolysis, as a method of disposition when a person dies. The method does not require fossil fuels, is 90 percent more energy efficient, and does not use land or materials for a casket. Funeral practices have always been closely connected to religious belief, and many people of faith desire a funeral that better cares for God’s Creation, such as the Archbishop Desmond Tutu. There are no health or safety concerns with water cremation. It is authorized in 26 states. [Read the 1-pager.](#)

Call the [Senate Business & Commerce Committee](#)

Chair: Sen. Charles Schwertner - (866) 730-1359

Vice Chair: Sen. Phil King - (866) 730-1395

Sen. Brian Birdwell - (866) 730-1395

Sen. Donna Campbell - (866) 772-1951

Sen. Brandon Creighton - (866) 730-1355

Sen. Nathan Johnson - (866) 770-7364

Sen. Lois Kolkhorst - (866) 770-7366

Sen. José Menéndez - (866) 772-1954

Sen. Mayes Middleton - (866) 730-1396

Sen. Robert Nichols - (866) 730-1335

Sen. Judith Zaffirini - (866) 730-1335

Support Death Penalty Reform

HB 180 by Moody would authorize a prosecutor to withdraw an execution date, which has been an issue in the Melissa Lucio case.

HB 314 by Toth would prohibit the death sentence in a case in which guilt is based solely on the testimony of one eyewitness.

HB 727 by Rose would prohibit the death sentence in a case in which the defendant suffered from severe mental illness.

Call the [House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee](#)

Chair: Rep. Joe Moody - (855) 893-7425
Vice Chair: Rep. David Cook - (866) 596-1702
Rep. Salman Bhojani - (866) 573-1651
Rep. Rhetta Andrews Bowers - (855) 739-2182
Rep. Drew Darby - (866) 536-5680
Rep. Brian Harrison - (855) 921-1368
Rep. Jeff Leach - (866) 534-6753
Rep. Christina Morales - (866) 730-0827
Rep. Nate Schatzline - (866) 573-1652

Support Sales Tax Exemptions for Necessities: HB 300 by Howard

HB 300 would exempt diapers, baby wipes, feminine hygiene products, and maternity clothes from the sales tax, which would make the sales tax less regressive. [Eighty-one percent](#) of Texans support a sales tax exemption for diapers and baby wipes, 75 percent support an exemption for feminine hygiene products, and 67 percent support an exemption for maternity clothes.

Call the [House Ways & Means Committee](#)

Chair: Rep. Morgan Meyer - (855) 704-2553
Vice Chair: Rep. Shawn Thierry - (855) 704-2554
Rep. Angie Chen Button - (855) 705-0255
Rep. Tom Craddick - (855) 705-3750
Rep. Barbara Gervin-Hawkins - (855) 706-0756
Rep. Cole Hefner - (855) 706-0757
Rep. Sergio Muñoz, Jr. - (855) 706-1694
Rep. Candy Noble - (855) 706-1703
Rep. Richard Peña Raymond - (855) 729-6257
Rep. Hugh Shine - (855) 733-2187
Rep. Chris Turner - (855) 736-6906

Support Doula Coverage in Medicaid: HB 465 by Thierry

HB 465 would create a pilot program to cover doula services in the Medicaid program in two counties with high maternal and infant mortality rates.

Call the [House Human Services Committee](#)

Chair: Rep. James B. Frank - (855) 693-3927

Vice Chair: Rep. Toni Rose - (855) 704-0851

Rep. Liz Campos - (866) 695-0632

Rep. Lacey Hull - (866) 721-0897

Rep. Stephanie Klick - (855) 701-2295

Rep. Christian Manuel - (855) 918-1301

Rep. Candy Noble - (855) 706-1703

Rep. Ana-Maria Ramos - (866) 631-6168

Rep. Matt Shaheen - (866) 533-8228