



# TETAF

TEXAS EMS TRAUMA &  
ACUTE CARE FOUNDATION

## Guide to Texas Advocacy

### Terms

**Legislature vs. Legislator** - The body made up of the Texas House and Senate is referred to as the “Legislature.” A state representative or senator is referred to as a “legislator.”

**Representative vs. Congressman** - A “representative” is a member of the state House of Representatives. A congressman refers only to federal lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**Capital vs. Capitol** - Capital with an “a” refers to a city; capitol with an “o” refers to a building.

**Advocacy vs. Lobbying** - Advocacy involves educating a lawmaker on a subject. Lobbying involves a direct ask of a lawmaker (Ex: Vote for bill xyz.). Any money spent on a lawmaker or his/her office is considered lobbying. All lobbying is advocacy, but not all advocacy is lobbying.

### Contacting a Legislator

**Introduction** - Always begin by introducing yourself and who you represent. If appropriate, state whether you are “for,” “against,” or “on” a bill. “On the bill” means you are not asking the lawmaker to vote yes or no, simply providing more information on the issue being discussed.

**Show Respect** - Always be respectful. Use the terms “Representative,” “Senator,” or “Chairman” when addressing a lawmaker. Do not use the lawmaker’s first name. If a representative or senator chairs a committee, always refer to him/her as “Chairman” or “Madame Chair.”

*Find your Texas Senator and Representative*

Who Represents  
Me?