



TETAF

TEXAS EMS TRAUMA &
ACUTE CARE FOUNDATION



**Texas
Perinatal
Services**

A Program of the
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](#)