

MAKING AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE YOUR SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE

Let Your Voice be Heard!

Did you know?

There are 31 Texas Senators and 150 members of the House of Representatives. These elected officials make up the Texas Legislature. The legislature meets in odd number years and during that time they are “in session”. Most sessions only last 140 days, although the Texas Governor has the power to call a special session. That is not a lot of time to conduct all the business with all the boards, agencies and groups that need adjustments to their rules or new rules to help benefit the citizens of Texas. During the last session, there were 11,335 bills filed the legislature had to listen and make decisions on.

Too many bills, not enough time. That is why, when the legislature is not in session is the BEST time to visit with your Texas Senator or Representative. After all YOU are the reason they are in office.

When you call for an appointment, begin with establishing a relationship. When you call, be prepared to meet with the Senator or Representative’s staff. **Do not worry**. The staff hears all information, helps understand issues, and has the ear to their boss to help present your case!

At this time you may get an appointment or you may be told the legislator is out of his/her office for some time. At that time, ask if you can email the policy staffer responsible for the issue area or drop off a letter to their office. Do not underestimate the power a hand delivered letter can make. As a rule, the majority of Texas citizens do not make their voice heard so when it happens, it becomes very memorable.

If you get an appointment, please go to the TAMFT website and download

▶ **TALKING POINTS FOR SUNSET**

If you get an appointment or you want to drop off a letter, please go to the TAMFT website and download the letter marked

▶ **LETTER FOR SUNSET**

Thank you for your help and let us know how your discussion went!

SAMPLE SCRIPT

TAMFT MEMBER – “I’D LIKE TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT WITH SENATOR _____/ REPRESENTATIVE _____ OR A MEMBER OF HIS STAFF WHO HANDLES SUNSET OR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.”

Staff - “What is this about?”

TAMFT MEMBER – “I’D LIKE TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE REGARDING SUNSET FOR TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST.”

Staff - “When would you like to come in or what would you like to see him/her about regarding this issue?”

TAMFT MEMBER – “I’M A LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST AND I WOULD LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LET THE SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THIS LICENSE IS TO ME AND TO THE CITZENS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS WHERE THIS REMAINS A SERIOUS ACCESS TO CARE PROBLEM.”