

Legislative Visit Tips

How to read the Texas legislator chart:

The chart lists both Senators and Representatives of the Texas legislature. It is important to know who is a senator and who is a representative.

New legislators are noted with an “F” for “Freshman” next to the name. They will likely not have district offices until Session begins. However, if a number or email is listed, try to reach them and meet at a coffee shop. They are new and want to learn about the people they represent.

Capitol phone numbers for Freshmen will not be activated until January 8, 2019 but are listed so you can use them once session begins.

Those highlighted are of importance as former champions or because they sit on the appropriations, finance or health and human services committees. Committees listed are based on the 85th Legislature and will be updated for the 86th when assignments are made.

A county with an asterisk means a partial county.

Sometimes the only phone is the Capitol office. Call that number and ask to see the legislator or staff in the district.

Some senators have districts that span more than one region. If they have a district office in two regions, they are listed in both and the bold office applies to that region.

This chart was keyed in the wee hours of the morning. If you find errors or updates, please let Courtney know.

How to make a legislative visit:

You can visit a legislator, even if you are not their constituent. Especially if your center serves their area. To determine who represents you Google, Who Represents Me? Put in your home address and note your Texas Representative and Senator. Or you can put in your center address to see who represents your work address. Sometimes it's fun to make these visits in a group of 2 to 4 people.

Call the legislator's district office and ask to make an appointment to meet with the legislator for about 30 minutes. If that is not possible, ask to meet with staff. Meeting with staff is ok. They represent their bosses and can be very helpful. Take fliers or information on your clinic, if you have them.

During the visit, ask if they have ever heard of applied behavior analysis (ABA)? Tell them who you serve, what you do, that Behavior Analysts were licensed in last legislative session. Let everyone have a turn sharing what they do. Invite staff/legislators to visit your clinic to see what you do.

Explain the Medicaid leave-behind. Share the supporter sheet. Tell stories that support the need for Medicaid for ABA.

Ask if they have any questions and offer to be a resource for them should they have constituent questions about autism or ABA. If they ask a question that you cannot answer, simply say, “I don't know but I can find out and get back to you.”

Give them your calling card if you have one. Get the card of the person(s) you are meeting with or write down name and contact information. Use the visit to listen to see if they are supportive or have a connection to the cause.

Hand write or email a thank you note after the visit. Record your thoughts on the “Feedback Form.” Send it to Courtney Hoffman or your area captain.