

# Meeting Your Legislator

A personal visit is one of the most effective ways to communicate your interest in an issue or bill and build a relationship with your elected official. As a professional counselor, your views on issues that will likely come before each member of the legislature are valued by your legislator and their staff.

## BEST PRACTICES

**Be on time** if you have an appointment. Call if you are running late.

**Be patient** if you have to wait.

**Be concise.** Plan to spend no more than 30 minutes per visit.

**Avoid jargon and acronyms.** Don't expect them to know your terminology.

## MEETING TIPS

Introduce yourself as one of the members of the Texas Counseling Association. Tell them if you are a constituent. "I am a [school counselor], [licensed professional counselor], [counselor educator], [college counselor] from \_\_\_\_\_."

Create a dialogue. Be receptive to questions. Do not lecture, antagonize or argue.

If asked a question you can't answer, DON'T GUESS. Ask for contact information and offer to follow up with more information.

If the member supports your position, thank them. If not, listen carefully and take notes. Thank them for their time. Ask them to reconsider.

Offer yourself as a resource to their office during the interim and during the 2027 legislative session.

Leave fact sheets, brochures, and contact information for follow-up. Have business cards ready.

Follow up with a thank you note that summarizes the points you made and includes any follow-up information that you promised.