

From:
To:
Subject: Indivisible TX Lege Weekly Actions
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 12:05:34 AM

Hi y'all,

We're in the thick of it now. Bills are starting to make it out of committee and into the chamber. Many bills are having hearings in committee, and some that have had their hearing awate votes. Now's the time to reach out to all of the Texans in your life who you know care about their communities and their state. Get them to make calls, schedule office visits, or even head to the capitol to provide testimony. We can do this if we do it together!

We've got a first pass at our [Focus Bill Tracker](#) ready(ish) for sharing. You can look at the total list in the COMBINED tab, or look at each issue huddle's tab if you'd prefer to focus on a few areas. We will strive to keep this spreadsheet updated regularly, but for the most current, accurate, and up to date information, look up the bill number at the [Texas Legislature Online](#). You can even create an account and save bills or committees that you want to follow. If you don't have the time for that, don't worry. We'll keep you posted!

Red alert: There is a high probability that [abortion will nearly be illegal come September](#), based on legislation that is being fast-tracked in the Senate. We need a full court press on your legislators urging them to protect reproductive rights in order to SAVE TEXAS LIVES. Outlawing abortion will kill Texas women. Period.

1. Call to Protect Voting and OPPOSE HB 6 and SB 7

Call the House Elections Committee to OPPOSE HB 6 and testify at their upcoming 4/1 hearing.

HB 6, a voter suppression bill, had a hearing last week on 3/26 that got [bungled by Briscoe Cain](#). Because of that, it will have another hearing this Thursday, April 1 at 8 am. SB 7's hearing is over, but keep making calls to your own Senator to OPPOSE SB 7. Keep an eye on our [CTA website](#), and keep an eye on the [HB 6 and SB 7 CTA](#) for background, phone numbers, and scripts to push back against these anti-democratic bills.

Read: [nytimes.com: Texas Part of Coordinated Voting Rights Attack](#)

2. Call to SUPPORT HB 509 and Medicaid Expansion

Call your State Rep and members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee II to SUPPORT HB 509 and Medicaid Expansion.

The Texas budget would [save Texas \\$100M in its biennial budget](#) AND provide comprehensive healthcare coverage to 1.2 million adult Texans AND save county budgets' the property tax dollars that are currently allocated to indigent care. Expanding Medicaid is a [threeway win](#): 1) provide healthcare in the midst of a pandemic, 2) save dollars during a budget crisis, 3) save property tax money. A committee hearing has not been scheduled on

HB 509, but it should be! Call to push a hearing and to pass this bill into law.

For more: [Episcopal Health: Open Letter to Elected Officials](#)

Call: [House Appropriations Subcommittee II](#)

Say: "Hi. My name is _____. I live in _____ and my zip code is _____. I'm calling to ask the Representative to push for a House Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on HB 509 that expands Medicaid. Expanding Medicaid would save Texas \$100 million dollars while also providing comprehensive healthcare to over 1.2 million Texans! It would also help county budgets save property tax dollars they currently allocate to indigent care. Everyone supports lowering property taxes! In a budget crisis, in the middle of a health crisis, expanding Medicaid is a must. Please ensure HB 509 gets a hearing and then gets approved out of committee. Thank you!"

3. Provide Redistricting Testimony

Sign up to provide Redistricting testimony at the House Redistricting Committee on April 1 at 10 am.

The House has scheduled its first redistricting hearing of the session. (You'll recall the Senate finished their hearings a few weeks ago.) This first House hearing covers testimony for folks living in the West Texas region, but the committee will hear testimony about any region of the state. Note that if you want to request an invitation to provide testimony virtually, you need to [register 48 hours ahead](#) of the hearing.

Read: [Notice of Redistricting Committee Hearing](#)

Sign up: [Request invitation to provide virtual testimony](#)

4. Call to OPPOSE HB 1925

Call the House State Affairs Committee and your State rep to OPPOSE HB 1925 that would criminalize sleeping in public.

If you're homeless, you don't have many options on places to sleep. Every human has to sleep in order to survive. This bill will criminalize homelessness, fining people who can't afford housing...for not having housing. In a state that doesn't see housing as a human right and has [few affordable housing policies](#), we shouldn't also be penalizing people for not having housing. Our state should be helping the homeless, not hurting them.

For more: [Dallas Observer: Homeless Would Face Misdemeanors Under Proposed Bills](#)

Read: [United Nations: Housing is a Human Right](#) ; [Blocked Out - A Texas Tribune Series on Housing](#)

Call: [House State Affairs Committee](#)

Chris Paddie (512) 463-0556

Ana Hernandez (512) 463-0614

Joe Deshotel (512) 463-0662

Sam Harless (512) 463-0496

Donna Howard (512) 463-0631
Todd Hunter (512) 463-0672
Phil King (512) 463-0738
Eddie Lucio III (512) 463-0606
Will Metcalf (512) 463-0726
Richard Raymond (512) 463-0558
Matt Shaheen (512) 463-0594
Shelby Slawson (512) 463-0628
John Smithee (512) 463-0702
Clerk (512) 463-0814

Say: "Hi, I'm a Texan concerned about homelessness and I strongly oppose HB 1925. This bill would cruelly punish people for having nowhere else to go. By saddling unhoused people with tickets that they can't pay, warrants that prevent them from getting ID, and arrests that give them criminal records, this bill would hurt folks' chances of getting employment and housing and will keep more people homeless for longer. Is that what the Representative wants for Texas?? This bill could also create a huge unfunded mandate for the many small and mid-size communities that don't have public sleeping bans today. It would force this unfunded mandate through the threat of losing state grant funds. Why does our state want to hurt local governments? If you care about reducing homelessness, suburban and rural local govt budgets, or the humanity of unhoused people, you'll oppose HB 1925. My zip code is _____."

5. Call to OPPOSE SB 29

Call your State Senator and the State Senate Affairs Committee to OPPOSE SB 29, AKA the Show Me Your Genitals Bill.

The Senate committee heard testimony on SB 29 last week, but it has not yet been voted out of committee. [Keep calling](#) the committee members and your State Senator to OPPOSE SB 29.

6. Call to OPPOSE HB 2189

Call the House State Affairs Committee and your State Rep to OPPOSE HB 2189, companion to SB 13, that would penalize companies for divesting from fossil fuels.

Last week we had an [action to oppose SB 13](#) (keep calling!). Its companion bill HB 2189 is in the House State Affairs Committee and needs opposition also. Content and script the same as SB 13. Only the names and numbers have changed!

Write: [Provide Written Testimony](#)

Call:

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7. Share

Use #FundTxEdRecovery to encourage Texas to use Federal stimulus money meant for education on education.

The US Congress committed \$17.9B to Texas schools. Let's make sure it actually gets to our schools. **Share [Raise Your Voice Texas' video](#)** on all of your social media platforms, and use the hashtag #FundTXEd Recovery.

When you've completed an action, remember to [log it!](#) We've set a goal of 10,000 actions by the end of session, and can only get there with your help!

Keep the feedback, questions, and suggestions coming. Thanks for all that you do!

Much love,

Marieke

Indivisible TX Lege

Action Network



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