



Texas  
Orthopaedic  
Association

# Orthopaedic Advocacy: *Do Your Lawmakers Know You?*



## It Only Takes a Few Minutes

**There are many different ways to get to know your lawmaker.** TOA's goal is for every lawmaker to know an orthopaedic surgeon in his or her district. TOA is here to help if you would like assistance.

**Invite a lawmaker to your hospital or ASC.** Lawmakers like to visit medical facilities. You can brief your lawmaker on orthopaedic issues when they visit.

**Attend events in your community.** Lawmakers attend events in their communities almost every day. Whether it is a town hall meeting or a gathering with a community group, attend events and get to know the lawmakers.

**Visit the district office or Capitol.** TOA will schedule a time for you to meet with your lawmaker at his or her district office or at the Capitol in Austin or Washington. These visits are also a great time to get to know the lawmakers' aides, who play a critical role in making decisions.

## Lawmakers Must Know Who You Are

Texas orthopaedic surgeons practice under two domes: the Capitol in Austin and the Capitol in Washington. Laws and regulations made at the state and federal levels touch on every aspect of an orthopaedic practice. Therefore, it is critical for orthopaedic surgeons to be engaged in the public policy process.



## It's Easy for an Orthopaedic Surgeon to Make a Difference

**If orthopaedic surgeons do not become engaged in the public policy process, our opponents will take advantage of our absence and define musculoskeletal issues by using their own terms.**

When a state or federal lawmaker is preparing to vote on a health care issue, it is critical for the lawmaker to remember an orthopaedic surgeon in his or her district and rely on the orthopaedic surgeon for his or her opinion.

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