

Practical Advocacy

“The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly”

Prepared by **Alison Mohr Boleware, MSSW**



So, you want to make an office visit...

The good... call ahead, be organized, and be on time.

The bad... not calling ahead, being too vague during the meeting, arriving late.

The ugly... taking up too much time with chit-chat or demanding to see the Rep/Senator.

Visits during the interim

The good... friendly, understanding of the process, and open-minded.

The bad... only calling once, demanding bills be filed without forming relationships, and trying to steamroll staffers.

The ugly... not showing up until the week of bill-filing deadline.

Visits during the session

The good... communicative, concise, and timely.

The bad... impatient, unresponsive, or unhelpful.

The ugly... demanding, aggressive, and unwilling to compromise.



Building Relationships

The good... when advocates know the issues and know the process.

The bad... when someone is relentlessly eager.

The ugly... not letting an office that you're working with know that you're going to testify against a bill of theirs'.

Just Remember...

- Time is of the essence! We only have 140 days every other year to get everything done!
- Build relationships
- Know some basic facts about the legislator
- Respond quickly
- Always be transparent
- Offer to help however needed
- Be ready to be quoted
- Offer support or opposition of specific legislation
- Be nice ☺



Helpful Resources:

Texas Legislature Online

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>

Texas House of Representatives

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/>

Texas Senate

<http://www.senate.state.tx.us>