Secrets of the TXLege Part 3: Talking to Legislators

Rachel Malone Gun Owners of America Fall 2020



Today's agenda:

- 1. Finding legislators
- 2. Phone calls
- 3. Meetings
- 4. Committee Hearings
- 5. What kind of activist are you?



Talking to Legislators



Find them

- www.TexasTribune.org/directory
- House and Senate directories (contact from TLO website, capitol.texas.gov)
- Capitol office
- District office
- Town halls, club meetings
- Staff



Effectiveness levels

5. Testify

4. Meet with legislator

3. Meet with staff

2. Call

1. Email



Email



Call



Phone call

- 1. Call Capitol office
- 2. Give your name
- 3. "I'm a constituent"
- 4. Make your ask
- 5. Say thank you and hang up



Phone call

"Hi, my name is [Rachel Malone], I'm a constituent of Representative [Smith], and I'm calling to ask the Representative to protect my gun rights."



Phone call

"Please vote [yes] on [HB 100] in committee hearing tomorrow."

OR

"I support HB 100, 200, and 300 because they protect my gun rights. Please tell the Representative to co-author those bills and help get them passed.

Meetings



Steps for a Meeting

- Call the Capitol office & ask to talk to the scheduler
 - They may refer you to the district office
- Ask the scheduler for a meeting with the legislator
 - Let them know you're a constituent
 - Tell why you want to meet ("talk about gun rights")
 - Meeting can be Zoom, phone, or in-person



When you meet

- Give a handout (look at our resources page, gunowners.org/texas)
- Tell your story be personal
- Make a specific ask: "sign on to this bill"
- Listen for dodging
- Get the staffer's info



Committee Hearings



Committee Hearings

Rule #1: Show up

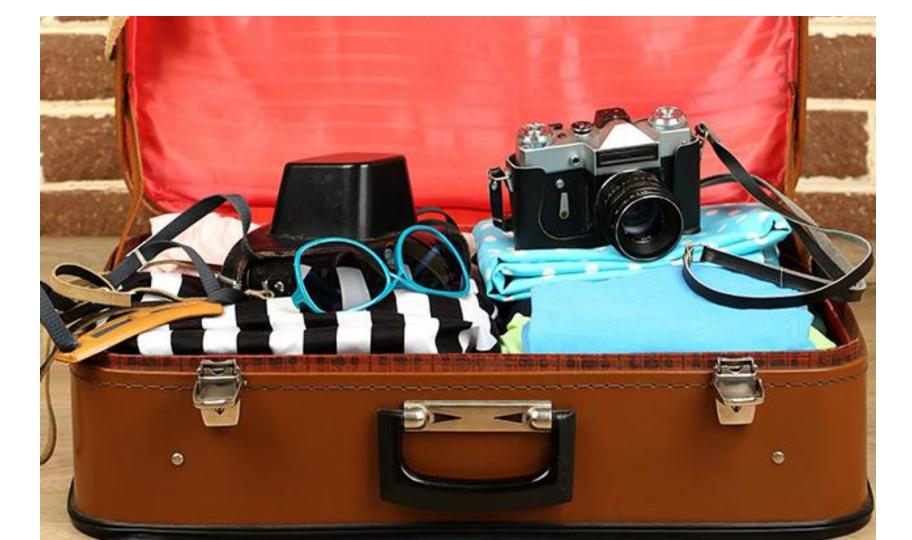


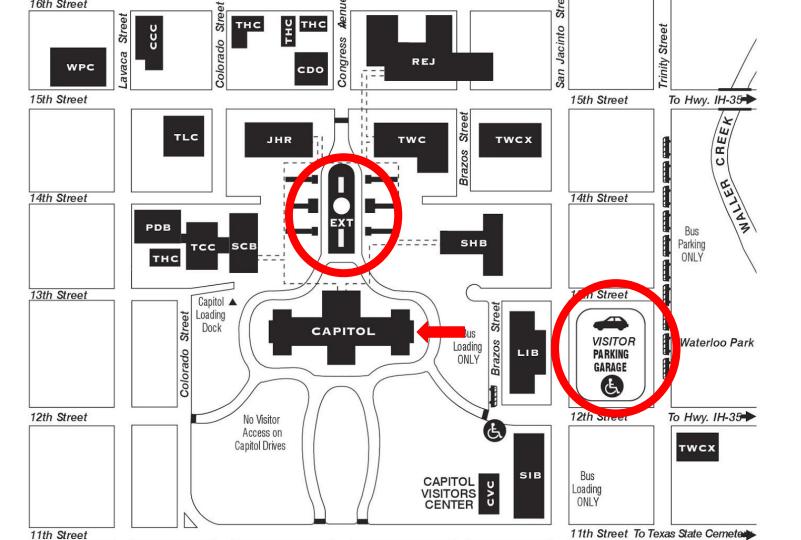
Committee Hearings

Rule #2: Be ready for anything

especially after 2020







SENATE SELECT CONTRITOR IN SCHOOLS & SCHOOL SECURITY WITNESS REGISTRATION CARD

IN SCHOOLS & SCHOOL SECORT I WITNESS REGISTRATION CARD	
SUBJECT/CHARGE#: Red Flag Proposol	ģ
TESTIMONY (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): TESTIMONY (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): TESTIMONY (CHECK ALL THAT APP	
TESTIMONY (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): REGISTERING POSITION, NOT TESTIFYING REGISTERING POSITION, NOT TESTIFYING	
DORAL Rachel Malone	
NAME (please print):NAME (please print):	
ZIP:	
STATE:	
CITY: Tayas Director (e.g.: Executive Director)	
REPRESELY	
oral or written testimony programmed and other and other than the website. By signing this laddress and other and accurate, and that I have made before the testimony I give before the laddress and other and accurate, and the testimony I give before the	
and posted on a public and posted on a public that contains 2	
REPRESENTING: G.G.: self, organization, etc.) (e.g.: self, organization, etc.) (e.g.: self, organization, etc.) Any oral or written testimony provided to the Committee, including personal or copyright protected and distribute any testimony or other information. Any oral or written testimony provided to the Committee permission to publish and distribute any testimony or other information. Any oral or written testimony provided to the Committee permission to publish and distribute any testimony or other information. Any oral or written testimony provided to the Committee permission to publish and distribute any testimony or other information. Thereby contains your email address and other personal or contact information. Thereby certify that the above statements by me are true and accurate, and that I have listed all persons, firms, corporations, classes or groups which I represent the personal or contact information. Thereby certify that the above statements by me are true and accurate, and that I have listed all persons, firms, corporations, classes or groups which I represent the personal or contract information. DATE: TESTIFIED: Y N	
I hereby certify that the above on which I am appeared to the matters of the matter	
FOR COMMIT	









Waiting & Listening

- Find your people
- Be an ambassador
- Help everyone
- Expect the unexpected



Preparing Testimony



Be sure to.....

- Read the bill
- Read the agenda ***but the order will change***
- Listen in the hearing room



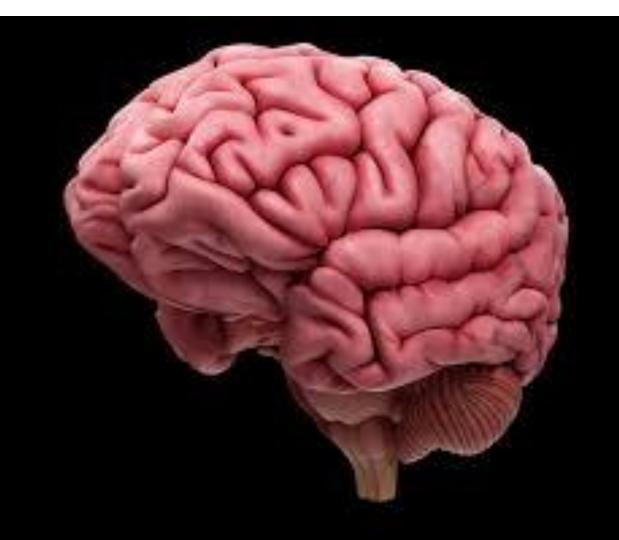
Words to say:

"Hi, my name is _____ and I am testifying

[for, against, on] [HB___ or SB ____].

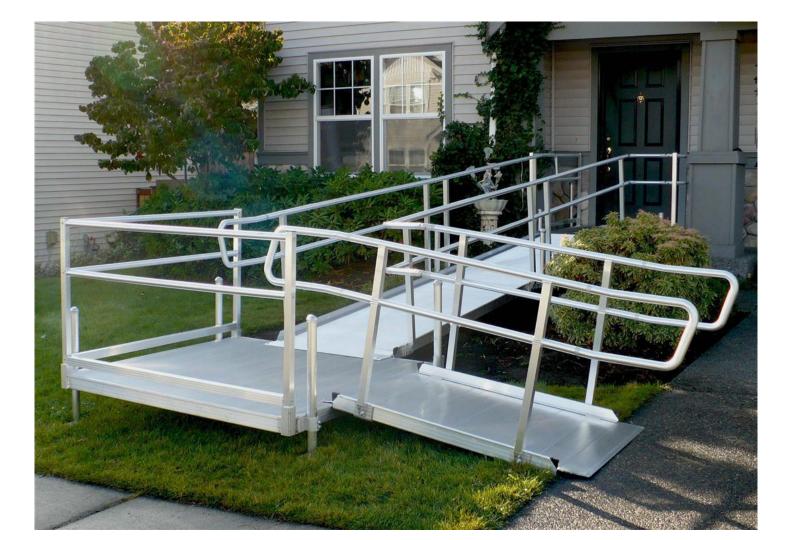
I am representing [myself, or organization that you are authorized to represent, or self + organization]."











Delivering Testimony



Tips

- One thing
 - Know it
 - Deliver it
- Know the start & finish
- Speak into the mic
- Stop when it's over
- You are qualified



What kind of activist are you?



How can I help you make change happen?

Rachel Malone 512.937.3006

rachel.malone@gunowners.org

gunowners.org/texas

