

Advocacy Toolkit

Getting Involved



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How to Write a Public Comment

After a certain regulation or rule is proposed by government actions, it is available for public comment. Individuals can share their opinion on proposed regulations through writing a public comment. Public comments are beneficial as individuals can identify potential issues with a regulation or offer alternative solutions to what the regulation is trying to solve. This is especially helpful for those who are personally affected by the regulation and can share how this will impact their lives.

Here is an example template for a comment:

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on [document title]. I am [your name] and I live in [city/town]. [You can also include information about your credentials in relation to the topic of the comment. For example, if the topic is about early childhood education and you are a child care director].

I would like to [raise concerns OR provide supporting evidence] regarding [document title]:

[1 sentence describing first point]

[1 sentence describing second point]

[continue for as many points as you wish to include]

In summary, [1-2 sentences summarizing your comment]. [You can also include references to literature or any statistics if you wish to include any].

Sincerely, [your name]

For more information, including examples and templates of public comments, visit: <https://publiccommentproject.org/how-to>.

[How to Track a Bill](#)

Keeping up to date on legislation is another way to get involved in advocacy. During the Texas legislative session thousands of bills are filed. It is important to identify pieces of legislation that may have an impact on early childhood education and services to families.

To track a bill visit: [Texas Legislature Online - MyTLO](#). From there, you can search for specific pieces of legislation by their bill number or browse the legislation that has been passed. You can also create an account which allows you to set alerts for certain pieces of legislation. This website also connects you to information on Senate and House members, Senate and House committees, and calendars for upcoming hearings.

[Citizen Lobbying](#)

Citizen lobbying is a way to get your voice heard. Many people overlook lobbying as something that is done by big corporations, but that is not the case. Anyone can be a lobbyist!

Citizen lobbying is about creating a connection with your representatives. You'll have to be very active in contacting your representative so that they hear your concerns about the issue you are passionate about. This may include contacting your representative through emails and calls, as well as talking to them at public meetings and events. You can even set up meetings with your representatives' offices to create a connection with them.

Don't be shy! Your representative wants to hear from you. Representatives listen to the public when making decisions, especially since their decisions are impacting the lives of the people they represent.

To learn more about citizen lobbying, visit: <https://borgenproject.org/how-to-be-a-citizen-lobbyist/>.

[Using Social Media for Advocacy and Policy](#)

Social media can be used for advocating your position! You can post resources and infographics to reach those you are connected to. You can also repost other

organizations' information that you support to help spread their messages. This allows for more people to be aware of your position and the issues themselves, which can inspire people to act.

