

## PREPARING FOR THE 2009 TEXAS LEGISLATURE

In the Texas 2007 legislative session, conservative Texas House members filed 30 immigration bills all intended to stop the harm that illegal immigration is doing to our state. Out of all those bills, only one was passed into law. Those same Texas House members are already working on the issue for the upcoming session.

Attached is a copy of the Oklahoma Taxpayer and Citizen Protect Act of 2007 (HB 1804). Representative Leo Berman of Tyler has already sent the Texas version of this bill to the Legislative Council. As activists, we need to do everything we can to help Rep. Berman and all of the other conservative representatives to get something done in 2009. It is not too early to begin. Legislators can file their bills as early as October 2008.

**The purpose of this action item is to jump-start your activism by urging you to begin letting your representative know that you want to have an immigration bill passed in Texas on the level of the Oklahoma bill. This will take the cooperation of everyone.**

**During the coming months:**

1. **Get to know your Texas State Representative. Don't forget that they may have an opponent. Make contact with them.**
  - a. If your representative or their opponent represents your viewpoint on illegal immigration, get involved in their campaign, make a contribution.
  - b. If your representative or their opponent does not represent your viewpoint on illegal immigration, contact with them is especially important and extra effort is needed.
  - c. Attend Town Hall Meetings, debates, forums.- Introduce yourself. Seek out their staff because many times you will not be able to meet with the legislator. Getting acquainted with the staff can be very helpful.
2. **Make an appointment.** You may feel more at ease having someone go with you. Decide beforehand who will take the lead in presenting your case. If you would like someone who is experienced to accompany you, please call our voice mail at 214.261.5373 and leave a message. Since we are a volunteer organization, schedules may not always mesh, but we will do our best to get you in contact with someone whose schedule will work with yours.
  - a. Be prepared.
  - b. Be informed.
  - c. Be concise.
  - d. Be alert to any questions or objections you may receive.
  - e. Take a copy of the OK bill to leave with them. While it is understood that there will be differences between the OK bill and the Texas version, having the summary to leave with the official/staff will help get across to them what your intentions are for immigration legislation in Texas.
3. **If you are unable to go to the office**
  - a. Phone the district office.
  - b. Identify yourself and state why you are calling.
  - c. Tell them you will be sending them a copy of the OK bill for them to read and you will be calling back to discuss the bill with them.
  - d. Then follow through.

If you are unsure who your state legislator is, go to <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/> and you will be able to enter your address and zip code to find the information.