

TEXAS COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

85th Legislative Session – May 7, 2017 ACTION ALERT & WEEKLY UPDATE

Calls Needed Today – Monday, May 8, 2017

CALLS TO ACTION

- Contact the [House Calendars Committee](#), especially if you are a constituent of any member and ask them to:
 - **Set HB 2898** (Gonzales)– **the Mental Health Licensing Boards Sunset Bill on Major State Calendar**. *All House Bills MUST be set on a calendar by Tuesday and reported from the House by Thursday. **This is the MOST IMPORTANT ACTION ITEM!***
- Contact [YOUR State Representative](#) and request they **VOTE AGAINST HB 3859** (Frank). This bill would subject children in our foster care or adoption agencies to be subject to the *personal and religious* values and beliefs of their caseworker and counselors. The House will vote on this bill today; it was postponed from Saturday.

What's Ahead – Week of May 8th

The House faces critical deadlines in passing House bills this week. House Bills MUST be set on a calendar by Tuesday and MUST be considered by the full House by Thursday or the House version is DEAD. Passions are running high and tempers are flaring as some members use parliamentary maneuvers to kill bills. House committee hearings are very light as members focus on getting House bills onto and through the House Calendar.

Monday, May 8, 2017

- **House of Representatives Calendar:** *The House will convene at 10 a.m.*
 - HB 3859 (Frank). SEE CALL TO ACTION ABOVE. Held over from Saturday's calendar
 - HB 306 (Minjarez) relating to student harassment, bullying, cyberbullying, injury or death to a minor. The CSHB 306 is much better than its companion SB 179 (Menendez) which includes a section that would require school counselors to serve as a conciliator between a bully and a student being bullied. We support the language in the Minjarez version and are working to amend SB 179 in the House.

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

- **House Public Health Committee**, 8 a.m., E2.036 to hear 12 bills, including:
 - **SB 589** (Lucio) relating to establishing the Texas Board of Behavior Analyst Examiners and requiring licensure to practice as a behavior analyst or assistant. TCA **opposed** this bill as it moved through the Senate.

What Happened This Week

- **SB 1533 (Rodriguez)** relating to mental health first training for university employees passed the House (137/8) and is on its way to the Governor. Companion bill HB 4237 (Moody).
- **HB 928** (White) to assist students who have been adopted or in foster care in the process of applying to college, passed the House (145/1)
- **SB 179** (Menendez) relating to student harassment, bullying, cyberbullying passed the Senate and was referred to the House Public Education Committee. It does not include the amendment requested by TCA. (See What's Ahead).

- **HB 192** (Bernal) prohibiting housing discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identify was favorably reported as substituted from House Business and Industry Committee.
- **HB 225** (Johnson) prohibiting employment discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identify was favorably reported from House Business and Industry Committee.

- **TCA's Watch List**

- The TCA [Weekly Tracking Report](#) includes the latest action on each bill that TCA is tracking. Read complete bills go to www.capitol.state.tx.us and enter the bill number. *Pay close attention to House Bills that are being heard in the Senate and Senate Bills being heard in the House. Odds of passage increase as bills move through both bodies.*

What Can You Do?

- Contact the [House Calendars Committee](#) and ask them to set **HB 2898** (Gonzales) on the **Major State Calendar**.
- IDENTIFY [who represents you](#) and load their contact information into your phone or computer.
- [REGISTER to attend](#) the May 16 Advocacy Day. Bring a friend. TCA membership is encouraged but not required.
- ACT on every alert that you receive. A call is better than an email; a visit is better than a call.
- SHARE the *Weekly Update* and *Call to Action Alerts* across your networks and social media. Please acknowledge TCA as the source of the information.
- WATCH the [TCA Advocacy Video](#) on the TCA YouTube Channel to hone your advocacy skills.

Thank you for all you do to support professional counselors, your students and your clients. Contact [Jan Friese](#), TCA Executive Director, with questions or requests for additional information.

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