



First Tuesdays at the Capitol

Who's the best lobbyist for your patients? YOU are! TMA can't do it without you. When it comes to defense, your patients and your colleagues need your help in protecting our medical liability reforms, medicine's exclusions from the new business tax, and your right to own and invest in health care facilities. And don't forget our biennial battles over allied health care practitioners' attempts to expand their scope of practice ... without regard to patient safety.

The Texas Medical Association and Texas Medical Association Alliance are calling on YOU. Be a medical lobbyist for a day. You will make a difference.

Physicians, alliance members, and medical students from around the state will converge on Austin the first Tuesday of each month to reenact the White Coat Invasion. Lobbying tips, legislative briefings and debriefings, and personal visits to legislators' offices are all part of First Tuesdays at the Capitol. Your patients need you to be there.

As part of First Tuesdays you will:

- Make a difference now and for medicine's future.
- Learn about the health plans' scare tactics, Medicaid shortfalls, scope of practice challenges, and the other hurdles medicine faces today.
- Inform your senator and representative and their aides about these issues.
- Attend committee hearings and House and Senate sessions.
- Share what you've learned with each other and the TMA lobby team.

Important Points to Remember

- If you are a doctor, please wear your white coats while at the Capitol.
- TMA will provide legislative talking points and other printed materials.
- Please make your own appointments with legislators. If you need assistance or have questions, contact your medical society or call TMA at (800) 880-1300, ext. 1361.
- Plan your day around your legislators' schedules!
- Check with your county medical society before making travel arrangements. Group transportation may have been arranged.

Please help spread the word that First Tuesdays at the Capitol needs physicians and alliance members from all over Texas, and that it is open to all members and their spouses. If you participated in any of the sessions, tell your colleagues what a rewarding experience it was to walk down the halls of the Texas Legislature in your white coat. If you need more registration forms or any other information, call your county medical society or TMA at (800) 880-1300, ext. 1361.

*** Please note that First Tuesdays occur during legislative years.**

*** Reference: <http://www.texmed.org/template.aspx?id=5211>**