

Texas Impact Update

April 2018

Texas Impact is growing and going strong throughout the state!

In 2017, we successfully advocated for important legislation, such as a bill that protects mental health coverage for county jail inmates. We also were a primary player in the defeat of discriminatory “bathroom” legislation.

The year 2017 also saw record growth in our individual and congregational memberships.

Support continues to grow for Weekly Witness: our weekly “faith+policy” briefing that encourages year-round legislative engagement. Weekly Witness is recorded live every Monday at noon—usually at First United Methodist Church in downtown Austin, but sometimes “on location” around the state. We recently launched a podcast, so you can listen at your convenience...and it’s also available as a Facebook Live or webinar, both live and archived.

Recent popular episodes of Weekly Witness have included an interview with Houston United Methodist disaster recovery leader Scott Moore about faith communities responding to Hurricane Harvey; Austin’s Rabbi Neil Blumofe on the connections between Passover and SB4; and Feeding Texas’ Kathy Green on the Farm Bill.

Other highlights from 2018 (so far) include:

- Texas Lutheran Legislative Event featured presentations from 3 ELCA national staff, who highlighted Texas Impact’s role as the ELCA’s State Public Policy Office in Texas. Texas Impact is grateful to partner with ELCA national on important national policy issues including health care, hunger, and climate change.
- Texas Impact won a prestigious “Best in Class” DeRose-Hinkhouse award from Religion Communicators Council of North America for our work on the bathroom bill.
- We published “Responding to Family Violence: A Toolkit for Congregations” available at <http://texasimpact.org/content/new-toolkit-responding-family-violence>

Be sure to join Texas Impact’s Rapid Response network to get the most timely action alerts on state and national legislative issues—like the Farm Bill, which is heating up in Congress right now. Register for Rapid Response at <http://texasimpact.org/Take-Action>

**Join, donate, and find out more at
www.texasimpact.org!**