



THE TEXAS POLICY VOICE FOR HEALTHCARE AND BIOSCIENCE

State-Federal Legislative Committee **Principles and Process**

Overview

The State-Federal Legislative Committee (Committee) is a committee within THBI designed to develop, discuss and debate public policy initiatives and strategies, prioritize those and advise THBI staff regarding appropriate actions in favor or against those for implementation. The committee works in a collaborative process including THBI members and when appropriate THBI member contract counsel.

These initiatives and strategies will consist of public policy issues at the state and federal levels. They will include during a legislative session bills, appropriations, riders and other legislative related actions, amendments and language. The committee will also engage in state actions outside the legislative process when those impact the life science industry. This activity may include state agency rulemaking, policy and procedure development, interim studies, or other executive branch actions in healthcare and economic development. Similar engagement will occur at the federal level.

The committee is a conduit for compromise as well as a resource to weigh in on issues of importance to the life sciences industry. This document outlines both the principles for engagement for the committee as well as the process requirements for staff and members participating. THBI staff and the committee will at all times respect all anti-trust laws (statement attached) and will keep clear from proprietary issues.

Committee Structure

Currently the committee is comprised of THBI members who participate at the Level Three membership level or above. Each of those members are entitled to participate in all scheduled meetings/calls of the committee. Each member may include a contract counsel representative to be included on these calls. At the appropriate time in each meeting, agenda issues with possible policy conflicts impacting contract counsel will be identified and all THBI members should make arrangements with their contract counsel as to whether they need to leave the meetings or calls at that time (statement attached).

The committee currently has two co-chairs who share responsibility for convening the committee, and the THBI Policy Director coordinates and manages the committee. Agenda and information packets will be prepared and provided to the members.



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Committee Schedule

The THBI staff in consultation with the co-chairs and the Board will develop a schedule of meetings for the committee. Outside of legislative sessions or special sessions, the committee will meet at least monthly. Additional meetings maybe scheduled at the request of the co-chairs or the Board.

THBI staff have developed a calendar for preparation for the 88th Texas Legislative Session to guide the committee throughout the rest of 2022. This schedule is attached and will be completed with relevant policy topics added for discussion.

Committee Process

The committee will consider a broad variety of initiatives and strategies. As much as possible the committee will work to maintain a consistent agenda as described above and provide for orderly preparation for each event and particularly each legislative session. However, unforeseen issues, requests and events will occur and THBI staff will endeavor to ensure that the State-Federal Committee will be kept informed and engaged as those occur. All scheduled plans and agendas will adapt as unexpected developments occur. In general, the committee will make decisions by consensus. When a committee member has a concern, it is the member's responsibility to make the committee aware of the concern so that a proper discussion and resolution to that concern can be reached. The committee will not move forward to prioritize any proposal or event for which a member has a concern that has not been alleviated.

Interim

As noted above, the committee will meet at least monthly during the interim period when the legislature is not in Session. At the end of each regular session, based on intelligence received from the leadership offices, THBI will solicit from the committee proposals and suggestions for interim charges to present to members of the legislature for consideration.

The proposals will be collected and presented to the committee, and through the consensus process, the committee will select concepts for proposal. THBI staff along with members will then work, in alignment with the committees' goals, to propose those concepts to members of the legislature and leadership for consideration for adoption.

Once all interim charges are released by leadership offices, THBI staff will ensure that the committee prioritizes those charges based on the engagement levels outlined below and regular and strategic engagement, monitoring and progress reporting will be conducted.



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Preparation for Legislative session

As noted above, THBI staff will provide the committee with a schedule of preparation for each legislative session. The schedule will provide a framework for debate and discussion of policy issues throughout the interim. They will also include monthly reports on THBI legislative engagement, updates on recent public hearings or agency actions, and the opportunity to propose and review new ideas, proposals and requests.

In preparation for a legislative session, the committee will be asked to consider which level of engagement is most appropriate for each policy issue, topic or proposal presented. This engagement level will reflect the consensus of the committee and provide guidance to staff regarding strategies and actions for advocacy on those issues. Additionally, committee members may be asked to participate in specific small group strategic meetings to coordinate activity related to specific initiatives as needed.

Engagement Levels:

- Proactive Engagement
- Strategic Engagement
- Strong Monitoring
- Passive Monitoring

Policy Categories

- Rare, Chronic, and Infectious Disease
- Regulatory & Insurance (Not Medicaid)
- Government Programs (Medicaid)
- Workforce, Taxes, and Economic Development



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Prioritization is a three-step process and will begin in accordance with the schedule.

Step 1 - a category of policy topics will be presented at a monthly meeting for debate and discussion including all known topics in that category. Committee members should present new topics at least 48 hours in advance for each category. Topics proposed at or after the meeting will be discussed at a future meeting.

Step 2 - At the next monthly meeting the agenda will include both a new category for debate and discussion, but also a revisit to the previous category. Staff will prepare a summary of the previous category discussion including a list of all topics discussed organized by the proposed engagement level for formal agreement by the committee. Resolutions to possible conflicts or concerns will also be presented. Any unresolved conflicts will be referred to the Board for further consideration.

Step 3 - In September a final prioritization doc with all topics and engagement level designations will be presented and shared with the committee. Any proposals and initiatives which are developed or received after the September meeting will be considered on an ad hoc basis and integrated into the approved list as appropriate.

The committee should also consider that it is possible that certain situations may arise that require careful consideration by the industry. There could arise a situation whereby the organization should weigh in on an issue if the issue is innovative and unique within the industry, even if it affects only one company but could be a model that will help advance the life science environment in Texas as a whole. Careful discussion and deliberation are key to ensuring the industry has the most effective and strategic response to each initiative or strategy.

In the past, THBI has held to some very simple and straight forward principles for engagement within the committee in policy creation and legislation:

- Be open minded, engaged, flexible and adaptable.
- Be expedient and responsive to the membership's needs.
- Legislation and policies must fit within the overall goal and mission of THBI and fall into the life science timeline/categories of importance: Research and Development, Commercialization, Manufacturing, and Economic Development.