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# 87th Legislative Session Report



# TEXAS WATCH

Restoring Responsibility. Protecting Families.


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Executive Director

**KELLY TAFT**  
Development & Operations  
Director

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Digital Content Director



# 87<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION: IN REVIEW



One group stands at the Capitol for consumers and our courts. This session was one of the most challenging in our history, but we adapted and overcame, impacting the political process in new ways. We mounted aggressive campaigns on road safety, insurance reform, and patient safety. Our well-funded opponents coordinated a frontal assault on Texans' 7th Amendment rights, threatening those maimed or killed by commercial vehicles and attempting to make it more difficult to recover medical damages. Between the pandemic and fallout from the winter storms, we knew we faced a tumultuous session and prepared accordingly, investing in cutting-edge digital advocacy tools.

We succeeded in engaging more Texans than ever before in the fight for their constitutional right to trial by jury. **11,868 Texans emailed, called, or tweeted** at their lawmakers through our website, more than doubling the amount from last session.

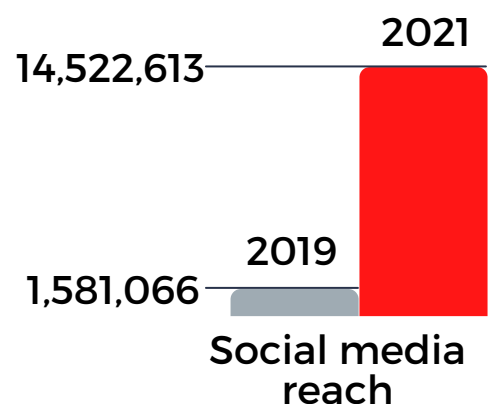
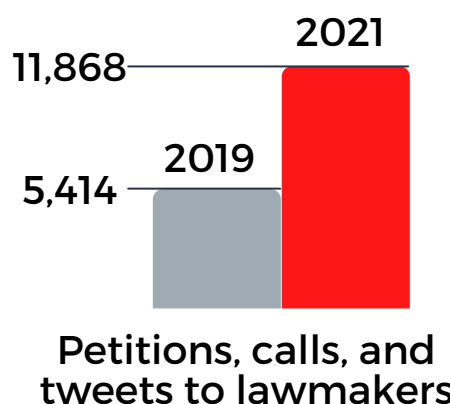
**11K**

**44**

We **produced 44 videos** this session, educating the public and lawmakers on key consumer- and court-related bills moving through the legislature. Our videos were viewed over 950,400 times.

Across all our platforms, we reached **14.5 million people**, 9 times more than 2019. For every \$1 we spent, we reached 316 people through targeted campaigns.

**14M**



# TOP VIDEOS



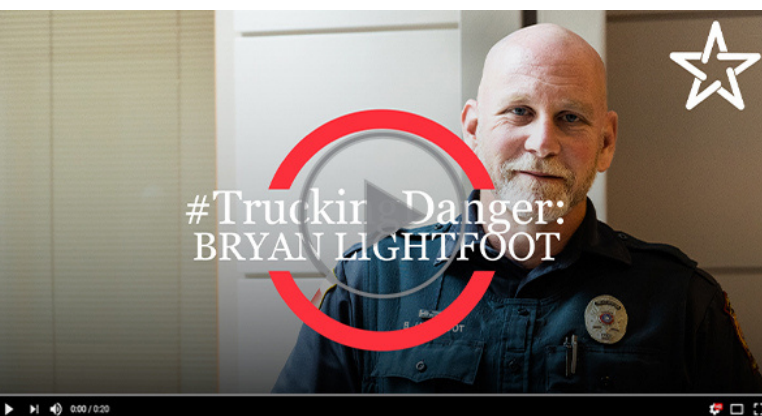
THE MOST-WATCHED VIDEOS PRODUCED BY  
TEXAS WATCH THIS SESSION



## 1. #TruckingDanger: Say NO to HB 19

A 30-second video highlighting the impacts of HB 19.

Total Views: 202,717



## 2. #TruckingDanger: Bryan Lightfoot

Our video profiling Officer Lightfoot who lost his mother in a commercial vehicle crash.

Total Views: 45,888



## 3. #TruckingDanger: Leslie & Sophie Rosenberg

Our video profiling the Rosenberg family who lost their mother and sister in an 18-wheeler crash.

Total Views: 43,796



## 4. Support Patient Access. Oppose SB 207 & HB 1617

Our video discussing the patient access crisis in our state and the negative impacts of SB 207 & HB 1617.

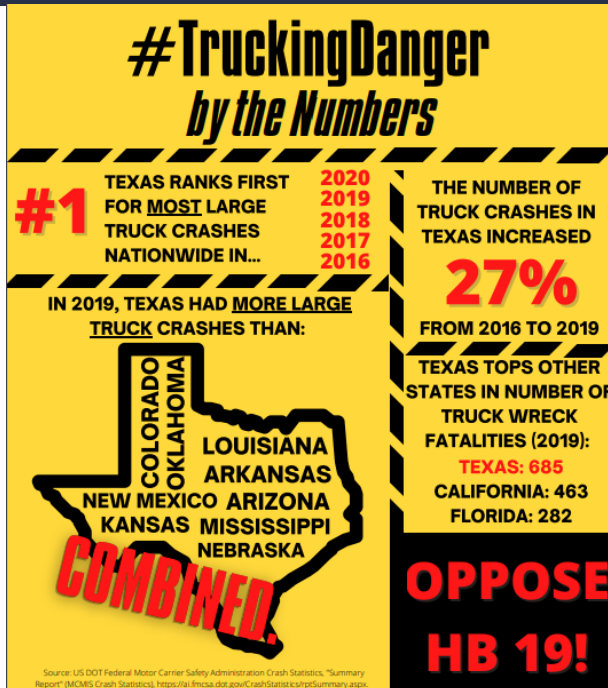
Total Views: 40,804

We exist to educate and engage the public in the fight for their rights.  
Watch our videos at [youtube.com/user/texaswatch](https://youtube.com/user/texaswatch).





POPULAR INFOGRAPHICS/POSTS CREATED BY TEXAS WATCH THIS SESSION (FACEBOOK)



#TruckingDanger:  
By The Numbers  
Impressions: 85,804



Urging Consumers to Document  
Storm Damage for  
Insurance Claims  
Impressions: 76,980



#TruckingDanger  
Impressions: 42,872



Consumer Tips After the Storm  
Impressions: 26,942



# MEDIA PRESENCE



A SAMPLE OF NEWS STORIES FEATURING  
TEXAS WATCH & OUR ACTIVISTS

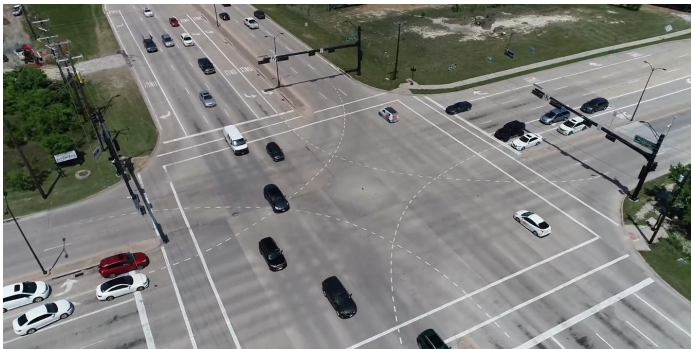


**Family of Man Injured in Trucking  
Accident Criticizes Texas House Bill  
That Would Make It Harder to Sue  
Trucking Companies**  
By: Rebecca Lopez, WFAA

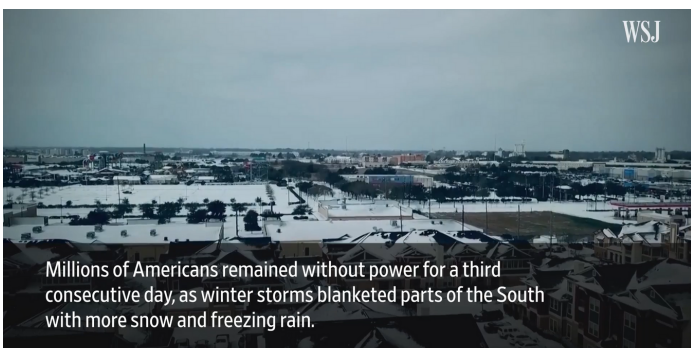
**What House Bill 19 Could Mean for  
Texas Drivers**  
By: Bill Spencer, KPRC 2



**Texas Lawmakers Look to Stop  
'Swoop and Settle' Insurance Tactic  
Used After Car Accidents**  
By: Brian New, CBS DFW



**Proposed Texas Law Would Protect  
Trucking Companies if Their Driver  
Hits You**  
By: John Engel, KXAN



Millions of Americans remained without power for a third consecutive day, as winter storms blanketed parts of the South with more snow and freezing rain.

**Filing an Insurance Claim for Texas  
Storm Damage? Payouts Hinge on  
Policy Details**  
By: Leslie Scism, Wall Street Journal

# HARD-HITTING ADVOCACY ON 50 BILLS



## #SafeRoads

HB 19 was pushed hard by commercial vehicle lobbyists, TLR, and many corporations and chambers from across the state. We opposed this heavily-funded effort with everything we had because Texas leads the nation in commercial vehicle-related deaths, and the bill only makes our roads more dangerous. Texas Watch helped dozens of families tell their stories about how commercial vehicle crashes impacted their lives, making the dangers on our roads real for legislators.



## #PatientSafety

SB 207 and HB 1617 were packaged with HB 19 and brought by the same special interests. These bills threatened the ability of Texans to recover their full medical damages in court. We joined many doctors in raising our opposition because of the impact these bills would have on patients' rights.



## Other Campaigns

With the support of our activists, important progress was made on HB 359 (UM/UIM benefits), HB 2534 (appraisal fairness), HB 1131 (quality auto repairs), HB 1793 (stopping "swoop and settle"), and HB 3957 (veterans health). We look forward to building on this progress next session.



Learn more at [texaswatch.org/act](https://texaswatch.org/act).



# LEGISLATION: TESTIMONY



## STATUS OF BILLS TEXAS WATCH TESTIFIED FOR/AGAINST

		Passed House	Passed Senate	Signed by Gov.
SB 11 <i>AGAINST</i>	Relating to the composition of the court of appeals districts			
HB 19 <i>AGAINST</i>	Relating to civil liability of a commercial vehicle owner or operator			
SB 207/ HB 1617 <i>AGAINST</i>	Relating to recovery of medical expenses in civil cases			
HB 359 <i>FOR</i>	Relating to uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage			
HB 621 <i>FOR</i>	Relating to health benefit claims involving third-party insurance			
HB 1110 <i>FOR</i>	Relating to replacement cost of damaged property with homeowner's insurance			
HB 1131 <i>FOR</i>	Relating to insurance practices with respect to repair of motor vehicles			
HB 1793 <i>FOR</i>	Relating to prohibiting oral releases in auto insurance claims			
HB 2052 <i>FOR</i>	Relating to public access to hospital investigation information			
HB 2269 <i>FOR</i>	Relating to requiring a declarations page for auto insurance policies			
HB 2534 <i>FOR</i>	Relating to insurance appraisal practices			
HB 2738 <i>NEUTRAL</i>	Relating to UM/UIM policies			
HB 3953 <i>FOR</i>	Relating to allowing contributions for the burn pits registry on handgun licenses			
HB 3957 <i>FOR</i>	Relating to creating specialty license plates for burn pits victims			

# LEGISLATION: ACTION



## STATUS OF BILLS TEXAS WATCH REGISTERED FOR/AGAINST

		Passed House	Passed Senate	Signed by Gov.
HB 293 FOR	Relating to health benefit coverage for fertility preservation services			
HB 440 FOR	Relating to health benefit coverage for hearing aids			
HB 907 FOR	Relating to prior authorization for some prescription drug benefits			
HB 1433 FOR	Relating to payment of insurance deductibles for property insurance			
HB 1434 FOR	Relating to limitations on pelvic exams, including an administrative penalty			
HB 1451 FOR	Relating to the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA)			
HB 1491 AGAINST	Relating to liability of a rural or community hospital for a liability claim			
HB 1586 FOR	Relating to health benefit plan coverage of clinician-administered drugs			
HB 1682 FOR	Relating to disclosures by liability insurers and policyholders			
HB 1787 FOR	Relating to liability coverage for a temporary vehicle issued to an insured			
HB 1794 FOR	Relating to the liability of an owner, lessee, or occupant for use of property			
HB 1875 AGAINST	Relating to the creation of the business court			
HB 1914 AGAINST	Relating to the civil liability of a children's isolation unit in a hospital			
HB 2035 FOR	Relating to utilization review of emergency claims under health plans			



# LEGISLATION: ACTION



## STATUS OF BILLS TEXAS WATCH REGISTERED FOR/AGAINST

		Passed House	Passed Senate	Signed by Gov.
HB 2064 FOR	Relating to the amount of a hospital lien on causes of action or claims			
HB 2142 FOR	Relating to preauthorization requirements and exams of health benefit plan issuers			
HB 2259 NEUTRAL	Relating to requirements for subscription service contracts			
HB 2406 FOR	Relating to the qualifications of experts in certain health care liability claims			
HB 2504 FOR	Relating to protocols required by health plans for mental illness prescription drugs			
HB 2761 FOR	Relating to disclosure requirements for accident and health coverage			
HB 2788 AGAINST	Relating to civil actions or arbitrations involving transportation companies			
HB 2853 FOR	Relating to the Texas Medical Disclosure Panel			
HB 3033 FOR	Relating to reporting requirements for mental health emergency detentions			
HB 3365 FOR	Relating to a statewide opioid settlement agreement			
HB 3377 FOR	Relating to recovery of attorney's fees in certain civil cases			
HB 3595 AGAINST	Relating to residential construction liability			
HB 3659 NEUTRAL	Relating to liability for claims arising during a pandemic or other disaster			
HB 3742 FOR	Relating to a prohibition on the use of genetic information by companies			

# LEGISLATION: ACTION



## STATUS OF BILLS TEXAS WATCH REGISTERED FOR/AGAINST

		Passed House	Passed Senate	Signed by Gov.
HB 3964	Relating to laws prohibiting distinctions <i>NEUTRAL</i> and other conduct related to insurance			
HB 3984	Relating to service of expert reports for <i>FOR</i> health care liability claims			
SB 6	Relating to liability for claims arising <i>AGAINST</i> during a pandemic or disaster			
SB 493	Relating to health care liability <i>FOR</i> insurance for certain nursing facilities			
SB 827	Relating to health benefit plan cost-sharing requirements for insulin <i>FOR</i>			
SB 1602	Relating to nonrenewal of certain <i>AGAINST</i> property insurance policies			

# LEGISLATION: CONTENT

## STATUS OF BILLS TEXAS WATCH PRODUCED CONTENT FOR/AGAINST

HB 3	Relating to authority of the legislature <i>NEUTRAL</i> and governor with respect to disasters			
HB 769	Relating to the administration of TWIA <i>FOR</i>			
HB 2144	Relating to the tort of public nuisance <i>AGAINST</i>			

### LEGEND:



Passed stage, with Texas Watch's support



Passed stage, with Texas Watch's opposition

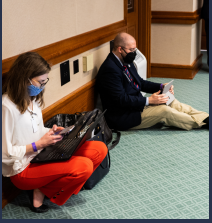


Did not pass stage

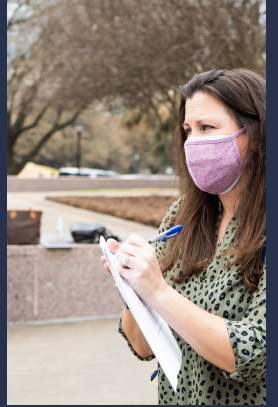
To read the text of bills or learn more about the bills, visit [capitol.texas.gov](http://capitol.texas.gov) and search by bill number in the 87R session. Bill captions have been shortened here.



# TEXAS WATCH



# WE



# FIGHT



# GIANTS.



# IN THE INTERIM...

## SHARE. LIKE. SUBSCRIBE.

We connect people to the political process. Please follow our social media platforms and share our content to help spread our message of safety, accountability, and justice.



Facebook.com/TexasWatch



Twitter.com/TexasWatch



Instagram.com/Texas\_Watch



Youtube.com/user/texaswatch



Tiktok.com/@TexasWatch

## SHARE YOUR STORY

Do you have a story about insurance abuse or corporate wrongdoing? Please share your story at [texaswatch.org/share](https://texaswatch.org/share).

## SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES

Please consider Executive Director Ware Wendell as a speaker for your next meeting. For more information, email [wwendell@texaswatch.org](mailto:wwendell@texaswatch.org).

## DONATE

The 300 Spartans who held the line at the Battle of Thermopylae inspire our work. We are a small team who fight giants every day. Please join us as a monthly donor to sustain our work. At \$25/month, we will ship you a limited-edition Spartan-themed lapel pin.



**TEXASWATCH.ORG**

**512-381-1111**

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