

# *Texas Defenders*

*Confederation of Clubs*

*&*

*Coalition of Independent Riders*



*Writing to Legislators*

*101*

*February 2008*

*This COCIR Booklet was printed under the expressed authorization by BGJ, Texas State Chairman of the Confederation of Clubs and the Coalition of Independents.*

*Copyright©  
February 13, 2008  
COCIRLtd  
All rights reserved*

*Any copying, duplicating or otherwise reproducing this booklet for free distribution is strictly and highly encouraged.*

*Dedicated in loving memory to JWR and to the men and women of the Texas Defenders.*

*Letters and e-mails can be particularly effective in influencing legislators' views. Writing to legislators also offers an opportunity to maintain contact and keep our issues on the front burner even when we cannot meet with them personally.*

*When writing legislators there are a few basic rules and tips that will insure that our Citizen Biker's correspondence reaches the State and U.S. Legislators that represent us.*

- 1). Always be respectful (no matter how much it hurts).*
- 2). Do not threaten or make demands.*
- 3). Understand the issue(s) that you are wanting action on.*
- 4). Do not use email symbols like lol or local expressions like "out yonder."*
- 5). Keep the letter brief, simple and to the point.*
- 6). Always include your full return address.*
- 7). Sign and address your letter in blue ink.*

## *Writing an effective (short) letter:*

### *1st Paragraph:*

*Keep it brief and in your own words. Identify yourself and your district. Get to the point of what action you want your legislator to do or not do and on what specific house bill (HR) or senate bill (S). Ask the legislator how they stand on the issue and if you can count on their support. You can also request a response.*

### *2nd Paragraph:*

*Offer any history of the bill like who sponsored it and where it is today in the process like in committee or on the floor for a vote.*

### *3rd Paragraph:*

*Make it yours by describing how the bill affects you personally and why it is important for your representative to support you. In your closing thank the legislator for taking the time to read your letter .*

*Use the following link to identify your Texas State or U.S. Congressmen or Senators and their mailing or emailing addresses;*

*<http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us>*

*When you address a letter or email to a state or U.S. Legislator always use the title “The Honorable” as in; The Honorable Lloyd Doggett. Always use the legislator’s name when starting the letter like “Dear Congressman McCaul or Dear Senator Hutchison.”*

*Always include your full name and mailing address with zip code so your legislator can respond and can also identify you as a constituent.*

*Always make a copy of your correspondence and any response you receive for your personal records and for TCOCIR documentation.*

## *Sample letter to a U.S. Congressman:*

*To the Honorable Michael T. McCaul;*

*Dear Congressman McCaul,*

*As an avid motorcyclist I am contacting you as my 10<sup>th</sup> District Representative to Congress and asking you to support HR 1076 which is proposed legislation to eliminate the loophole in the HIPAA Act . The loophole allows insurance companies to deny health coverage to accident victims of motorcycle and other legal recreational activities. I would very much like to know your position on HR 1076 and specifically if I can count on your support?*

*This bill (S-616) and known as the HIPAA Recreational Injury Technical Correction, was introduced into the Senate by Senator Susan M. Collins (R-ME) and was read twice and sent to committee. An identical bill (HR 1076) was introduced into the House by Michael Burgess (R-TX).*

*I use my motorcycle as a means of transportation to and from work. I also use my motorcycle to travel the great state of Texas and points beyond. I would greatly appreciate your support in this effort to correct a loophole in an otherwise good piece of legislation.*

*Thank you for your time and consideration on this very important issue and best regards from Manor, Texas,*

*John Smith*

*2233 FM 973*

*Manor, Texas 78653*

*As Texas Citizen Bikers and constituents we have a vested interest in our state and U.S. Government and a responsibility to insure that honesty and integrity is the normal course of business and not the exception. Only by expressing our opinions and concerns will elected officials learn what is important to us and our families.*

*Casey*

*True Few M/C*

*TCOC & COIR Secretary of Defense*

*[www.coctexas.org](http://www.coctexas.org)*



*The most dangerous weapon is the human soul on fire”*

*Thomas Payne*