



# TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **1,000 Texas REALTORS® visited state Capitol, met with hundreds of legislators** *Texas House votes to defeat appraisal cap legislation opposed by REALTORS® during visit*

AUSTIN, Texas – April 13, 2005 – The Texas Association of REALTORS® hosted more than 1,000 REALTORS® from all over the state participating in the organization's 2005 Legislative Hill Visits at the Texas Capitol on April 12. Designed to give REALTORS® an opportunity to express their views directly to state lawmakers, this year's Legislative Hill Visits consisted of hundreds of meetings between REALTORS® and legislators.

The day began with a resolution sponsored by Sen. John J. Carona (R–Dallas), which was passed by the Texas Senate, honoring the contributions Texas REALTORS® have made to the state. The announcement was greeted by thunderous applause from the Senate gallery, which was filled to capacity with Texas REALTORS® participating in the event. From there, Texas REALTORS® met with their local legislators and staff throughout the day to discuss issues important to the organization, and enjoyed a barbeque lunch on the Capitol grounds.

According to Lance Lacy, chairman of the Texas Association of REALTORS®, "This was by far our most successful Hill Visits and truly demonstrated the grassroots support TAR has among its membership." He continued, "Our primary goal today was to send a clear message to lawmakers: Texans needs true property tax relief now. I think we were successful and I'm proud to be part of an organization with such enthusiastic, committed members to help us achieve our goals."

A primary issue Texas REALTORS® discussed with their legislators was property tax cuts. REALTORS® talked about the need for property tax relief in a state that ranks 45<sup>th</sup> out of 50 in homeownership rates. Instead of relying on property taxes, REALTORS® expressed their support for a broad-based, low-rate business activity tax that fairly affects all Texans, without continuing to single out homeowners.

In addition, Texas REALTORS® celebrated a legislative success during their visit. House Joint Resolution 35, the appraisal cap legislation under consideration this session, was defeated in a test vote in the Texas House. TAR opposes appraisal caps due to the inequities they create among homeowners. Instead, REALTORS® support House Bill 1006, also known as the Truth in Taxation Bill, which would require taxing units to garner voter approval before raising tax rates by more than a particular percentage.

Other topics Texas REALTORS® discussed included a proposed real estate transfer tax and its negative implications for Texas homeowners, tax on services, insurance reform and mortgage finance. To learn more, please visit [www.TruthAboutTexasTaxes.org](http://www.TruthAboutTexasTaxes.org).

### **About the Texas Association of REALTORS®**

The Texas Association of REALTORS® is a not-for-profit professional membership association representing more than 70,000 members statewide who are involved in all aspects of real estate. For more regarding our organization, real estate practitioners should visit [TexasRealtors.com](http://TexasRealtors.com) and consumers should check out [TexasRealEstate.com](http://TexasRealEstate.com).

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