



Caitlin Flanders

Governmental Affairs Strategist

Caitlin Flanders is a seasoned public affairs strategist based in Austin, Texas, recognized for her deep expertise in legislative affairs, strategic policy development, and advocacy. Her journey into the heart of Texas politics began in 2011 at the Texas Capitol, as she simultaneously pursued her Bachelor of Arts in Government at the University of Texas at Austin. Initially serving in the office of Senator Nichols, Caitlin quickly distinguished herself by her keen understanding of the legislative process and her ability to navigate complex policy issues.

Following her tenure with Senator Nichols, Caitlin broadened her expertise at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, honing her skills in policy analysis and public engagement. Her commitment to transparency and government efficiency led her back to the Capitol, where she excelled as Committee Clerk for the Texas House Committee on Government, Transparency, & Operations under Chairman Gary Elkins.

Caitlin's career trajectory continued upward as she moved to Dallas to become the District Director for State Representative Linda Koop, overseeing district initiatives and constituent services. Her effective management and legislative coordination brought her back to Austin, where she served as Legislative Director for Representative John Raney, focusing on key policy areas such as higher education, economic development, the budget, and transportation. As Chief of Staff to Representative Shelby Slawson, Caitlin played a pivotal role in strategic legislative planning and execution on the powerful House Calendars Committee and on the House State Affairs Committee, further solidifying her reputation as a skilled legislative strategist.

Her substantial legislative experience paved the way for her role as Director of Public Affairs at the Texas Medical Association. In this capacity, Caitlin led advocacy efforts on a broad array of health policy issues, including women's health, behavioral health, and physician workforce challenges. She was instrumental in securing historic legislative wins such as the first physician Medicaid rate increase in two decades, the extension of postpartum Medicaid coverage to 12 months, and the expansion of birth control access, all efforts that underscored the Association's recognition by *Capitol Inside* as "the Most Influential Association Lobby Team" in the state. Caitlin also directed strategic regulatory projects, fostered collaborations with stakeholders on



rulemaking, and devised impactful communication strategies, significantly influencing public health policy.

Caitlin was recently honored as the 2024 *Pink Granite* “Rising Star” and is part of the *Cystic Fibrosis Foundation’s* 2024 class of “Austin’s Finest Honorees,” where she is actively raising funds and awareness for cystic fibrosis. Originally from Los Angeles, Caitlin moved to Texas as an infant and has been a proud Texan since. She enjoys traveling with her husband, hiking with their dogs, and is an award-winning equestrian.