



Dear Friends,

I write to you on this Friday afternoon after having just picked the kids up from school for their spring break. We plan to get a little R&R for a couple days as a family before I return to Austin on Monday. And as I sit here and type, I'm reminded of this same day last year ... little did we know on that Friday before spring break that our kids wouldn't return to school for several months. Little did we know that the COVID-19 pandemic would close businesses and churches, that it would change our very way of life, that over 500k of our fellow American citizens would lose their lives and countless others impacted physically, emotionally and financially.

What a year it has been. A rough and challenging one for all of us.

But the good news is that we are winning the war against this terrible virus. The efforts we have all undertaken together to be good citizens, to support and look out for one another and to take the necessary precautions to kill COVID-19 are actually working. That's why you saw Governor Abbott announce this week that Texas is 100% open for business, including a repeal of the statewide mask mandate. I know that many of you receiving this e-mail disagree on those decisions. And I respect that. But the fact is: we're winning. And now is the time to get our state's economy, our schools, our lives and livelihoods back on track.

Of course, this does not mean we should let our foot off the gas or take COVID-19 any less seriously. As for me and my family, we're going to continue to do the things necessary to take care of ourselves and our neighbors and to make sure we continue to kick COVID-19 square in the butt. We're aren't letting up. My hope is that you'll do the same.

As always, hats off to our heroic front line workers: our nurses and doctors, our first responders and teachers, and the many volunteers and dedicated professionals working around the clock to get the vaccines in the arms of millions of our fellow citizens. You are the real heroes in this epic fight. And we thank you.

EDUCATION UPDATE

This week we had two great victories for public education. First, after much hard work, we were able to secure priority status for our dedicated teachers who are willing and eager to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Second, we were able to secure the continuation of the

state's hold-harmless funding, ensuring that our school districts continue to have the necessary funding and resources they need to educate our students in spite of the enormous and unexpected challenges this school year has presented. Our educators and the students they serve demand and deserve the very best ... and the state is working hard to make sure that they have it.

WINTER STORM UPDATE

By way of brief update on the storm, we continue to work tirelessly to find answers and solutions to ensure that what happened last month never happens again in the State of Texas. I am glad to report that several of the ERCOT Board Members (many of whom lived outside of Texas) and the ERCOT-CEO, as well as the Chair of the Public Utility Commission of Texas, have resigned. These were good and necessary steps to restore public confidence and put in place the necessary personnel to lead us forward in to the future. That said, so much more must be done. There must be bold structural and systemic reforms and strategic investments by the Legislature to ensure the stability and reliability of our grid. And I'm very confident we'll deliver those reforms this session.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Things are heating up at the Capitol. Committee hearings have started and bills are beginning to move through the process. Next week, I will lay out one of my priority bills for the session, House Bill 19, which seeks to crack down on frivolous lawsuits that are threatening to put many businesses, including many small businesses in our own area, out of business. Of course there has been much misinformation on the bill - but be assured my fierce commitment to ensure justice for victims is stronger than it's ever been. We can and will support those victims but we must aggressively root out some of the unscrupulous and greedy lawyers who care little about justice, who seek to take advantage of the system and who seek to unreasonably and wrongfully profit off their accidents. Not all lawyers are like that - but many are. And they're in our crosshairs.

Further, we will continue to push hard on our legislation improving education, strengthening our economy, protecting our fundamental freedoms and liberties, including the right to life, to worship and to keep and bear arms, securing the integrity of our elections, and investing in critical infrastructure.

I invite you take part in the legislative process with me and my team. You can review and track the bills I have authored at this link: <https://capitol.texas.gov/reports/report.aspx?ID=author&LegSess=87R&Code=A2475>

And you can track the progress as activities of the Texas House, including our daily calendars and agendas, here: <https://www.house.texas.gov/>

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

I am so deeply appreciative of PELOTON, a great corporate partner in Plano, for partnering with us in providing over 10,000 bottles of water to our citizens in HD67. Becky and I are huge fans of this great company - in fact we even have a Peloton bike at our own home (a great investment BTW!). Peloton has a great presence already in our district, with plans to bring up to 1,600 more jobs to our area. Thanks, Peloton, for your commitment to helping people — on and off the bike!



Thank you, friends, for reading our reports every week. I am immensely blessed to be your State Representative and advocate and I hope you find these reports helpful and informative. If there is anything I or my team can do for you — and I promise you there is - we're always a phone call away.

Keep on Keeping On!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Leach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Leach

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