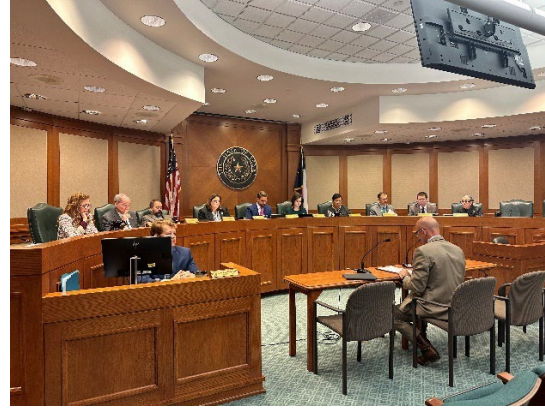
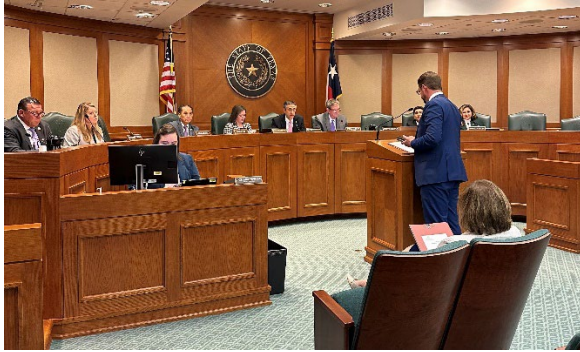


Dear Friends,

Happy St. Patrick's Day! It was a very busy week at the Capitol so let's get right to it.

This week I laid out 11 of my bills in committee. These bills ranged from smart Criminal Justice reforms to strengthening our Judiciary. Here's a quick look at each bill that I laid out - click on the link to learn more about each one:

- [HB 1736](#) – Relating to the extent of a defendant's criminal responsibility for the conduct of a coconspirator in a capital murder case and the review of certain convictions by the Board of Pardons and Paroles.
- [HB 1737](#) - Relating to automatic orders of nondisclosure of criminal history record information for certain misdemeanor defendants following successful completion of a period of deferred adjudication community supervision.
- [HB 1741](#) - Relating to creating a criminal offense for the unauthorized disclosure of non-public judicial opinions and judicial work product.
- [HB 1748](#) - Relating to the use of a facsimile signature on certain public securities and related certificates.
- [HB 1763](#) - Relating to the disposition of money from certain attorney accounts delivered to the comptroller as unclaimed property.
- [HB 2014](#) - Relating to reimbursement for jury service.
- [HB 2015](#) - Relating to the exemption from jury service for persons over a certain age.
- [HB 2022](#) - Relating to residential construction liability.
- [HB 2024](#) - Relating to statutes of limitation and repose for certain claims arising out of residential construction.
- [HB 1743](#) - Relating to allowing certain inmates to apply for supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to be provided at the time of discharge or release.
- [HB 1747](#) - Relating to allowing certain inmates to apply for supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to be provided at the time of discharge or release.



TEXAS HOUSE PRIORITY BILLS

Last week I started introducing some of the House priority bills beginning with [House Bill 2](#) which will provide substantial property tax relief to all Texas property owners. This week I'm going to talk about Border Security and important Public Education bills.

Where the Federal government has over and over again failed to protect our southern border, Texas is stepping up to secure it. [House Bill 7](#) will create a Legislative Border Safety Oversight Committee whose sole purpose would be to guide the state's border safety policies. With an unsecure border we've seen firsthand the plague that human trafficking and drug smuggling has had on our communities. [House Bill 800](#) increases the mandatory minimum sentence for human trafficking to 10 years in prison, while also requiring a person who is convicted of running a stash house to serve a minimum of 5 years.

It's vital that we not only continue to invest in our public schools and our hardworking educators but that we also make sure they are safe while doing it. [House Bill 3](#) will improve school safety standards – including having at least one armed security officer on every school campus - and make sure they are properly enforced. [House Bill 13](#) will provide more funding opportunities to school districts for school safety, accessibility to mental health programs, and requires schools develop Active Shooter Preparedness Plans. With inflation at alarming rates, many of our retired teachers are struggling to make ends meet. [House Bill 600](#) will deliver a cost-of-living adjustment for Texas retired teachers while maintaining the actuarial soundness of the Teacher Retirement System pension fund. The bill does so by providing eligible retired educators with a one-time, upfront cost-of-living increase beginning in 2024 based on the years of retirement, with a \$5,000 cash payment for the state's oldest retirees.

HOW TO TESTIFY

With House Committees in full swing, I wanted to provide you with a step-by-step guide on how to testify in front of a committee. Personal testimony is pertinent for committee members as well as bill authors so they can hear firsthand how a bill might impact one's

family, business or community. And as always, my Capitol staff stands ready to help you with anything you need!

HOW TO TESTIFY

AT A TEXAS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE HEARING

1 BEFORE THE HEARING

- ✓ KNOW **WHEN** TO TESTIFY → visit www.capitol.texas.gov to sign up for alerts on the bill's status
- ✓ MAKE SURE YOU **CAN** TESTIFY → check the hearing notice to see if public testimony is allowed
- ✓ **PRACTICE!** → prepare your 2-3 minute speech



Parking
Visitor Parking Garage at 12th & Trinity OR metered street parking

Entrance
Enter through any side of the building!

Find the Kiosks
Register to provide testimony OR register to support/oppose w/out providing testimony

Get Comfortable!
Arrive early, but expect to stay late. Session length is unpredictable!

2 GETTING TO THE CAPITOL



3 TIME TO TESTIFY

- Be nice.** *Your testimony can be passionate, but please be respectful.*
- Be concise.** *Make your 2-3 mins count!*
- Be personal.** *How will this bill impact you, your family and friends?*
- Bring copies.** *For written testimony, check how many printouts are required.*
- Be unique.** *We want to hear YOUR story.*
- Follow up.** *Email committee members additional info.*



State Representative
JEFF LEACH
District 67

   @leachfortexas

THIS WEEK AT THE TEXAS CAPITOL

I was honored to receive the Concerned Women for America “Advocate for Life” award. Protecting innocent life has always been a top priority for me and I will continue to be on the front lines in this important fight.



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Floor Schedule:

- Monday: Convene at 2pm
- Tuesday: Convene at 10am
- Wednesday: Convene at 10am
- Thursday: Convene at 10am

Rep Leach Authored Bill Hearings:

[House Bill 1742](#) – March 21

[House Bill 2780](#) – March 21

(more likely to be announced later today)

Have a great weekend friends!

All My Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Leach". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" and last name "Leach" clearly distinguishable.

Jeff Leach

Capitol Office
Room GN.11
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
(512) 463-0544 Phone

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