



Dear Friends,

Spring has arrived and the Texas House is heating up. Committees are busy hearing bills often for many hours in a day and some well into the night or early the next morning. I'm going to highlight two of the bills I laid out this week.

In the House Committee on Corrections, I introduced [House Bill 1742](#). This is a bill that was born out of a tragedy. In 2015, newlyweds, Lauren and CJ Davis were out celebrating CJ's 26th birthday when they were struck and killed by a drunk driver while walking to the Mavericks game. After 3.5 grueling years, a sentence would be handed down to the man, who had previous DWI's and took the lives of two bright young people, of 4 months in jail and probation. HB 1742 seeks to prevent injustices such as theirs by mandating that intoxication manslaughter carry a minimum 5 year imprisonment. While intoxication manslaughter is considered a second degree felony and should carry 2-20 years in prison, some perpetrators receive very little jail time like in this case. I'm expectant that we will be able to get this important bill across the finish line this session.



I am also carrying and laid out in committee this week, one of the Texas House priority bills, [House Bill 200](#). In recent months, we've seen prosecutors across Texas, openly and publicly announcing that they will not enforce certain State laws. This is not only a violation to their oath but it undermines the very justice system they are charged with protecting. While prosecutorial discretion must be protected, we also have to address those prosecutors who fail to do their job, neglect their duty and/or break the law themselves. In HB 200 we will reestablish the Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council which will be charged with investigating complaints against prosecutors with a consistent, independent process.



TEXAS HOUSE PRIORITY BILLS

This week I'm highlighting a few more House priority bills. We've seen in the news, in our schools and in our communities that the growing fentanyl crisis has reached critical levels. We must do more to combat fentanyl. [House Bill 6](#) will deliver swift punishment for fentanyl-related crimes in Texas, increasing the penalty for manufacturing or delivering less than one gram of fentanyl to a third-degree felony. The punishment increases from a 5 year to a 10 year minimum.

Many parents have expressed concerns over not having the appropriate tools or guardrails in place to protect their children online. There are many scary statistics that social media use among minors has led to alarming trends of self-harm, depression, anxiety, and suicide. All while large corporations are using highly-addicting, predatory algorithms and advertisements to lure minors in and track their data. [House Bill 18](#), Securing Children Online through Parental Empowerment (SCOPE) Act, will empower parents by equipping them with the tools they need to have a say in what data is shared, including the ability to know what is being collected and the power to delete it. This bill will also require online platforms to obtain parental consent before they can collect and process the data of anyone between 13-17 years old.

THIS WEEK AT THE TEXAS CAPITOL

I always love being able to welcome constituents to the Capitol and had a great meeting this week with some hardworking educators from Plano. Together, we will continue to invest in our public schools and our teachers – both active and retired!



I also welcomed police officers to the Capitol this week. Our men and women in blue work tirelessly to protect our families and communities and I will continue stand up for them!



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 2687](#) – March 27

[House Bill 3158](#) – March 28

[House Bill 4598](#) – March 28

(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'.

Jeff Leach

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