

# Lalani's Legislative Letter

## *Volume 2023 Issue 1*

### ***Greetings from your Texas Capitol!***

To say that I am truly blessed would be an understatement. My family and I have felt all of the love, support, prayers, and positive thoughts from each of you. I send you all my heartfelt thanks.

People I talk to have asked me how it feels to now be a sworn in member of the Texas House of Representatives. When you elected me as your representative you gave me your trust and a responsibility, not power and authority. I am going forward with a clear mind, a sense of duty, and a servant's heart.

I have been soaking up every opportunity to learn to be the best servant leader for House District 76. Our office is meeting with constituents, advocates, and other policy makers and will roll out our legislative agenda shortly.

My door is always open to each of you. I welcome your input and insight. I look forward to a great legislative session and coming home to House District 76 proud to have represented you well.

***Remember this is your Capitol. You are the most important part of what happens here. Come and see it, get involved, make your voice heard.***

Blessings,

*Representative Suleman Lalani, M.D.*

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## **Opening Day**

On January 10, 2023, together with 149 of my newly elected friends I was sworn in as the Representative for House District 76. Surrounded by my family and friends I laid my hands on a Qur'an and took the oath of office. What a remarkable moment to be the first to use a 382 year old Qur'an on the momentous day!

Over 500 community members came to celebrate with me. Thank you for taking the time out of your lives to be there with me. We hosted one of the largest crowd of guests the Capitol has seen to support

one member. The community rallied behind me and helped organize buses, food and celebrated this historical moment.

The fact that I am one of two of the members of Texas Legislature who practice the Muslim faith is a responsibility I do not take lightly.

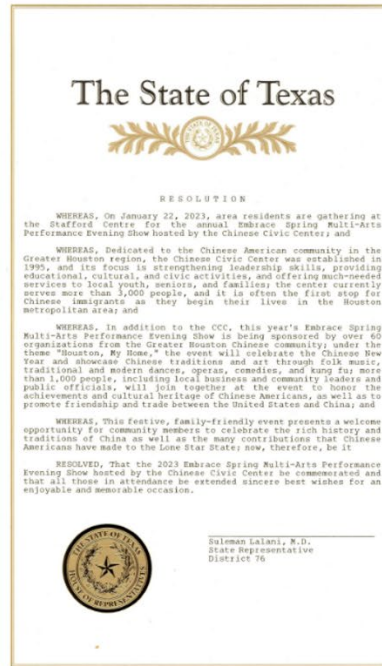


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## Community Recognitions

One of the best parts of my job is being able to honor members of the House District 76 community with resolutions to mark their achievements. My first official act as a sworn in member was to recognize the organization Ismaili CIVIC for their work in our community in the areas of health, education, economic development, environmental stewardship, and culture through their volunteer service.

I have also presented resolutions to The Honorable Abrar Hussain Hashmi for his appointment as the Pakistan ambassador to Nepal and to the Chinese Civic Center's Embrace Spring Multi-Arts Performance Evening Show.



## Advocacy at the Capitol

We have been busy meeting with people coming in to advocate for policies that are important to them. Advocacy is essential to great representation and you are key to that!

We celebrated Rise AAPI Day at the Capitol. I was privileged to speak to those who came to celebrate AAPI diversity in Texas and the Texas Legislature. We presented a resolution honoring January 30, 2023 as Rise AAPI Day at the Capitol. Forums and discussions were held on policy issues. Many people came in to see us at the office and we are grateful for your engagement.

Members of the legislature and their staffs traveled to the Rio Grande Valley to learn about unique challenges that face the RGV. We spoke with doctors and hospitals, energy and agricultural leaders and with State of Texas officials about border and trade issues with Mexico. As a legislator it is important for me to stay informed about the needs of each part of the state. I had not had an opportunity to see many of the places that dominate our policy conversations and this was a great opportunity for me to learn and ask questions so I can better serve you!



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## **My Staff and How to Reach Us**

I have hired a great team to help me be successful this session. My Chief of Staff Jennifer Strobel has several Legislative sessions under her belt. My Legislative Director Elliot Ross also comes to my office with experience and plays a pretty amazing concert violin. I am thrilled at what we can do this session together. Please reach out any time that you have a policy concern and stop by our office when you are in Austin!

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