



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JEFF LEACH

DISTRICT 67

December 1, 2016

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott,

Like you and all Texans, I am profoundly heartbroken over the tragedies that have taken place under the watch of our state's Child Protective Services (CPS). Over the past several months you have revealed your steadfast commitment to a complete overhaul of this broken agency, and I laud you and your office for taking bold steps towards initiating comprehensive reform. As you continue your work to address this issue head-on, please know that I fully support your efforts and look forward to working arm-in-arm with you and your office during the upcoming legislative session.

Understanding the urgency of this crucial issue, I am respectfully requesting that you officially declare CPS reform as an "Emergency Item" to be taken up during the first 60 days of the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. While our state faces many challenges ahead, I do not believe there to be a more pressing challenge than the comprehensive reform and restructuring of this troubled agency. As you have demonstrated by your personnel appointments and other actions in recent months, overhauling this agency should be a top priority for our state leaders, requiring our immediate consideration and deliberation upon convening in January.

To be clear, I fully acknowledge that such an undertaking is no simple task; however, as public servants and leaders of our great state, rising to a challenge such as this is what we are elected to do.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for your steadfast service to our great state. As always, my office stands ready, willing and eager to work closely with you and my colleagues in the Texas Legislature to ensure that Texas remains a shining beacon for the rest of America.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Leach".

State Representative Jeff Leach

CC: Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick  
Texas House Speaker Joe Straus  
Members of the Texas Legislature