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Dear Friends,

Session is well underway- bills are being filed, referred and heard in committee. March 13th is the final day for legislators to file bills for the 84th session, at which point legislation can be sent to the floor of the House for debate and final consideration. Here's the latest from Austin and HD10...

TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM

On Wednesday, Chairman Otto [announced](#) that the House will do what it takes to support and help fund the Teachers Retirement System of Texas, also know as TRS-Care. Due to rising health care costs, the program is expected to run out of funds during the year of 2016, but by providing a cash infusion, the House will assist in saving over 233,000 retirees and their dependents from excessive premiums. Teachers are the gateway to success for our students and the House plans to stand behind and fully support those who dedicate their lives to building our children's futures.

COMMITTEES

- [Ways & Means](#)

This week we heard additional testimony from the Comptroller's Office and from Ursula Parks, Director of the Legislative Budget Board. Governor Abbott, the Senate, and the House are all committed to providing tax relief to Texas residents and businesses. In Ways and Means, we are working to find tax reform or repeal

that will be meaningful, sustainable and beneficial to the long term needs of the State. Speaker Pro Tem Dennis Bonnen [agrees](#) that we can find at least \$4 billion dollars worth of tax relief over the 2016-2017 biennium, and I am fully supportive of his leadership efforts in achieving this goal.

- [*Homeland Security & Public Safety \(HS & PS\)*](#)

Last week HS & PS heard its first bills, [HB72](#) by Goldman, [HB229](#) and [HB503](#) by Guillen, [HB473](#) by Giddings, and [HB479](#) by Bell. We listened to testimony regarding these bills and are set to take up votes in the near future. HB72 would prohibit the sale or transfer of certain law enforcement vehicles before removal of certain equipment and insignia, in an effort to keep prevent misuse of emergency vehicles sold to the general public after their useful life has expired.

You can view archived video of all committee hearings, including Ways and Means and Homeland Security and Public Safety, [here](#).

HIGH SPEED RAIL

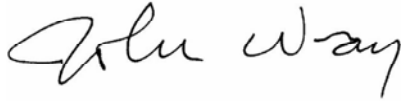
The proposed high speed rail between Dallas and Houston by Texas Central Railway has been a major concern and I am working hard to help put an end to it. I have partnered with my colleague, Representative Will Metcalf, in authoring [HB1889](#) to not only terminate the potential disruption the railway would cause to Ellis County, but also to avoid granting eminent domain authority to a private, for-profit corporation. If passed, this bill would be a "silver bullet", stopping the project in its tracks. I have voiced my concerns in a detailed letter to our area's representatives in Congress, and I hope it too will assist us in our efforts.

STAY CONNECTED

You can reach our Austin office at (512) 463-0516 or by e-mail at district10.wray@house.state.tx.us. Be sure to stop in and visit us when you're in Austin or the District and lookout for contact information for the District office soon!

As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve you and please contact me if I can be of service.

God Bless you and God Bless Texas,



Representative John Wray

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