

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives

April 3, 2009

Dear Friend:

We are now more than half way through the 81st legislative session. The Senate debated the budget this week and the House expects to take up the issue after Easter. I would like to let everyone know that my offices in Austin and in the District will be closed Friday the 10th and Monday the 13th so my staff can join their families for the holiday. If you need immediate assistance during this time, please e-mail my Chief of Staff Amanda Jeffers at Amanda.Jeffers@house.state.tx.us.

Economic Development

Early Monday morning, I joined several of my colleagues for a press conference to discuss and show support for a conservative, limited government approach to job creation that is a proven alternative to “stimulus” spending. I believe that jobs can be created and retained by reducing the tax burden on businesses, providing incentives for businesses to locate and stay in Texas, and investing in workforce development.

I have authored and co-authored several pieces of legislation to help accomplish these goals:

- I co-authored HB 1825 which addresses the margins tax. This bill will help reduce the tax burden on businesses by raising the small business exemption to one million dollars of total revenue and cutting the rate at which the margins tax is levied.
- I have proudly authored HB 1277. HB 1277 would allow the Texas Enterprise Fund to be used for job retention purposes. If a company is considering relocating to another state, my bill provides an additional tool that can be used to keep this company in Texas.
- Having a trained workforce is vital. That is why I joint-authored HB 2169. HB 2169 establishes an additional job incentive program by allowing the Texas Workforce commission to use the Skills Development Fund for new businesses looking to locate in Texas.



Rep. Button at Monday's press conference with colleagues from left to right: Rep. Randy Weber, Rep. Linda Harper-Brown (at mic), and Rep. Bill Callegari.

Floor Report

HB 982 was heard on the House floor this week. This bill imposes a tax on sexually oriented businesses.

Last session the legislature enacted HB 1751 which required a fee be charged for admission to sexually oriented businesses. Under this bill, the revenue generated from the fee was allocated to the sexual assault program fund and the Texas health opportunity pool. After the passage of this bill, a lawsuit was filed in state district court challenging the constitutionality of the legislation. The matter is currently in litigation and consequently no revenue from the collection of this fee has been distributed to these programs.

HB 982 repeals the changes made by HB 1751 and implements an occupational tax on the gross receipts from admissions fees charged by all sexually oriented businesses. I voted for this litigation ending piece of legislation and it unanimously passed the House.

Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award

Earlier today a constituent and dear friend of mine, the Reverend Casey Miner of Richardson, received the Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award for his efforts to rehabilitate inmates in our state's corrections system. He strives to help them transform their lives, become productive members of society, and to prevent them from becoming repeat offenders. I authored H.R. 859 to commend him for his service to our state and congratulate him for the great honor bestowed upon him today.

Capitol Visits



Rep. Angie Chen Button with Garland Council Members Laura Perkins Cox and John Willis



Rep. Button and Rep. Carol Kent pictured on the House floor with the J.J. Pearce High School Mustangs

It is a great pleasure to serve you in the Texas Legislature. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Angie Chen Button

If you would like to be added or removed from this mailing, please e-mail District12.Button@house.state.tx.us.