

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



January 28, 2011

Dear Friend:

I would like to thank each of you who contacted me after reading the newsletter last week. Early next month, committee assignments will be made and bills will begin to be referred to committees. The pace will pick up as we strive to get the work of the state accomplished before June. Your input is vital to this process. Please continue to tell me what you think of legislation moving through the House.

Voter Identification

Voter integrity scored its first victory of the 82nd legislative session in the Senate this week. On Wednesday, with a 19-11 vote, Voter ID legislation passed. Now this bill will move over to the House where it will be heard in committee, then on the House floor. I am excited to have the opportunity to vote yes on this important piece of legislation that requires Photo ID to cast a vote in Texas.

Pro-Life Legislation

This week I became a Joint-Author of HB 816. This important piece of legislation will opt abortion out of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), otherwise known as Obamacare. I fully support the Attorney General's challenges to the constitutionality of Obamacare and I am doing everything in my power to see that the bill is repealed but on an issue this important, I feel it is necessary to be proactive. The bill takes advantage of a loophole in the federal legislation.

According to Obamacare, each state must establish a state exchange through which insurance is offered to citizens and employers; these exchanges will fund abortion and abortion services. However, the PPACA includes a loophole, allowing states to pass legislation opting them out of exchange plans that pay for abortions.

Five other states have passed laws that allow their state health insurance exchanges to specifically exclude coverage for abortion from the recently passed federal legislation. I will work hard to ensure Texas is the sixth state to take a stand.

Visits From Home



I am so pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with architects from our district to discuss their legislative concerns for this upcoming session including promoting quality-based bid selections and high-performance buildings. Pictured are Lisa Keith, Mark Wolf and Mary Hatch, all of Richardson.

Economic Development

On Tuesday, I had several opportunities to help promote Texas goods and to help create jobs for our state. The Texas Federation of Asian American Chambers hosted a day at the capitol to bring members of the business community to meet their state legislators. We appreciated the Governor taking time to visit with the group. I was pleased to see members from our local Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce. Texas has become an increasingly important exporter to Asia. In 2009, China, South Korea, Singapore, Japan, and Taiwan were among the twelve top importers of Texas goods and services in the world. Last year I accompanied Governor Perry on a trade mission to Asia to further our business opportunities with rapidly growing foreign markets.



Governor Rick Perry in the center, Representative Hubert Vo to his right, and me to his left with visitors from the Texas Federation of Asian American Chambers of Commerce at the Capitol.

I also had the honor to present HR 158, a resolution honoring the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians. I was pleased to see friendly faces from the local Richardson Raindrop Turkish House who accompanied a delegation from Turkey on their visit to the capitol. Our international trade ties with Turkey are quite strong. According to the U.S. Census, in 2009, Turkey is the twenty-third largest recipient of Texas exports in the world. In addition, about one-third of the U.S. exports to Turkey come from Texas. I was truly honored to have the opportunity to help show this group what Texas has to offer. With our continued efforts to encourage international ties with Texas, we can help create jobs and prosperity for Texans.



Speaker Straus, myself and delegates from the Turkish Grand National Assembly.

It is an honor to serve you in the Texas House. I appreciate your support and friendship as we all work to keep Texas strong.

Sincerely,

Angie Chen Button

If you would like to be added or removed from this mailing, please e-mail District112.Button@house.state.tx.us.