

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



July 1, 2011

Dear Friends:

Happy Fourth of July! I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday weekend. I look forward to seeing you at the Garland and Richardson celebrations. The special session concluded on Wednesday the 29th. After 170 days in Austin, I am so happy to be back home and to catch up with all of you as we look for ways to improve our community and state.

This session, the House took the lead in making the tough choices required to pass a balanced budget, with no new taxes, while funding essential state services. We preserved funds to help balance what will also be a very difficult budget two years from now. Additionally, we promoted our strong business climate with bills such as loser pay lawsuit reform. I am very proud of the legislation passed to improve voter integrity such as requiring photo identification to cast a ballot in this state. Accountability and transparency in state government and in higher education took great steps forward. Both chambers passed all required redistricting maps, which is something that is unheard of in recent legislative history, and our school districts can now operate more efficiently and effectively. Additionally, we adopted measures to increase driver's license security to make sure that those in our country illegally cannot obtain a driver's license.

There were several pieces of legislation that I heard from many of you on that did not pass. I share your frustration and disappointment. One of which was legislation ending "Sanctuary Cities" in our state. Although the House passed this measure in the regular session, the Senate did not and, the Governor added the issue of sanctuary cities to the call. The session was adjourned on Wednesday without passing this measure. In response to this, Governor Perry made the following statement: "I am disappointed the Legislature did not address sanctuary cities. Working with legislative leaders last weekend, we worked to include Sanctuary City legislation in Senate Bill 1. Unfortunately, SB1 Conference Committee Chairman Robert Duncan ultimately refused to allow language related to the ban of sanctuary cities into the final version of Senate Bill 1. Because of this action, the special session will not provide our peace officers with the discretion they need to adequately keep Texans safe from those that would do them harm."

Additionally, the Texas legislature did not pass legislation concerning the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) anti-groping bill. When the bill was introduced in the regular session, it was passed unanimously in the House but was not even heard on the floor of the Senate. Although the Senate did pass the bill during the special session, they adjourned, one day before the session ended and before differences in the House and Senate on the issue could be worked out, and the

measure failed. The House did pass HCR 5, a resolution urging Congress to take appropriate action to ensure acceptable treatment of the public by TSA personnel. I co-authored this resolution and was disappointed when the Senate adjourned prior to adopting it, but I feel that by passing it in the House, we sent a clear message to the federal government that we would like them to take action and to come up with a better system.

These are just a few of the issues addressed during the 82nd legislature. There are many others that I will discuss in length in the coming months. Additionally, this will be the last weekly newsletter I send out until the next legislative session. For the remainder of the interim, I will send out a monthly update as well as a detailed hard copy newsletter.

While I am happy to be home, the end of this legislative session also marks the beginning of preparations for the next one. Soon, we will focus on interim charges. This is where the legislature researches solutions to issues needing to be addressed during the next session. I would love to hear from you on matters you would like us to begin studying so we can have a productive interim and one that will allow us to hit the ground running when we convene for the 83rd Legislative Session in January 2013.

Please Save the Date
Third Annual District 112 Senior Awareness Day
Saturday, August 6, 2011
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Richardson Civic Center, Grand Hall
411 W. Arapaho Rd.
Richardson, Texas 75080

Dallas Area Agency on Aging benefits counselors will be available to answer questions and provide assistance on Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

There will be entertainment, refreshments, exhibitors and door prizes. I hope you can join us for this fun and informative event. If you have any questions, please call 972-234-8980 or e-mail me at Angie.Button@house.state.tx.us.

It is an honor to serve as your Representative in the Texas House. Please let me know if I can ever be of assistance.

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.