

# ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas  
House of Representatives



*March 1, 2013*

Friends,

Things are well under way in Austin. There is a week left to go before the March 8th bill filing deadline and as of 3:30 pm today, 2,167 bills have been filed. Committees have been meeting and many of them are beginning to hear bills. Soon legislation that passes out of committee will head over to the Calendars Committee, where it may be set for a floor debate.

This week, we unanimously passed a resolution honoring slain former Navy SEAL Chris Kyle. His widow Taya Kyle, was among those who gathered in front of the House as my colleagues and I stood to formally approve the memorial resolution. He was tragically gunned down by a fellow veteran last month at a gun range near Chalk Mountain, Texas. Kyle was the most lethal sniper in American military history. He was honorably discharged in 2009 and proceeded to devote his time and energy to helping his fellow veterans with afflictions, such as PTSD, after they left the military. He was an American hero that touched many lives.

## **Technology**

On Monday, the House Technology Committee heard testimony on venture capital in Texas. I felt this was an important topic to discuss because, although Texas is considered a leader in economic development, it has declined comparatively to other regions in venture capital investments in startup businesses. One of those testifying before the committee was our region's own venture capitalist, Jon Bayless with Sevin Rosen Funds. Jon testified that many startups leave Texas and relocate to California, Boston, and New York to secure funding and the trend is increasing. He also discussed that in 2012, Texas had less aggregate venture capital invested than the top seven regions: Silicon Valley, New England, New York Metro, Los Angeles/Orange County, "Midwest," San Diego, and "Northwest." Northwest and San Diego pulled ahead of Texas between 2011 and last year.

In addition to hearing from venture capitalists, we heard from several Texas universities who have business incubators. UTD Associate Vice President of Technology Commercialization Robert Robb gave wonderful testimony on their business incubator that helps commercialize technology

researched at the school and assists in the startup of student-run companies. These university incubators provide low-priced office and lab space to technology-based startups. They help budding entrepreneurs with their business plans, product analyses and market research, and provide access to interns, mentors, and possibly seed funding. Additionally, the Venture Development Center in Richardson is another step by the University to foster entrepreneurship. The University started the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in 2006, a virtual incubator in 2007, and the Office of Technology Commercialization in 2008.

### **Leadership Rowlett**

This Wednesday, the 2013 Class of Leadership Rowlett was at the Capitol visiting with me and the other Rowlett representatives. This year's class included Rowlett citizens from diverse backgrounds and professions. I had the pleasure of meeting with them on the House floor to talk about my own legislation as well as their concerns for this session. Topics we discussed included economic development for Rowlett, transportation, and public safety.



**The class was able to join me on the House dais along with Representative Cindy Burkett. Members of the class included Melody Bates, William Brodnax, Matthew Carter, Douglas Chandler, Sherrie Cook, Pauline Dedrick, Jim Grabenhorst, Nancy Lopez, Craig Overstreet, Sherri Perkins, Timothy Rogers, Jessica Stock, James Williams, Thomas Wilson, and Bari Gayle Woolley.**

### **UTD McDermott Scholars and Political Science Students**

This week, several students from my own alma mater, The University of Texas at Dallas in Richardson, visited as part of their class and program. Tuesday, students from Dr. Greg Thielemann's "Legislative Decision Making" class stopped by to visit with legislators and staff on various topics including health, water, and public education for their class research paper.

On Wednesday, students from UTD's McDermott Scholars Program were at the Capitol. Up to 20 students are selected annually for this program and are among the top of their high school class. The scholars focus on intellectual achievement as well as community involvement and campus leadership. These students visit me every session and it is always great meeting with bright, civic-minded future leaders.



**Speaking to UTD's McDermott Scholars with Chairman of the Higher Education Committee, Representative Dan Branch.**



**I had a special visit from Garland City Councilwoman Lori Dodson and Granbury Mayor Pro Tem Mickey Parson this week to discuss transportation issues.**

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative. Please continue to communicate your views on issues that are important to you.

Sincerely,

*Angie Chen Button*

If you would like to be added or removed from this mailing, please e-mail [Angie.Button@house.state.tx.us](mailto:Angie.Button@house.state.tx.us).

