

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



April 19, 2013

Friends,

I would like to express my heartfelt sympathy to our friends in Boston and our neighbors in West as they work to recover from the recent tragedies. I am grateful to the courageous first responders who selflessly and immediately responded to the incident in West. I am so proud of the way Texans come together in times of need and of how tough we Americans truly are.

There are 38 days left in the 83rd regular session. Committees are meeting in overtime to consider bills and vote them out so they may be heard on the House floor. The floor calendars are getting longer and longer, and it is more important than ever that I hear from you on legislation that is important to you. To see what we will be considering on the House floor on a given day, please visit <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/MnuCalendars.aspx>.



Discussing public safety legislation with Vice-Chair of Homeland Security & Public Safety, Rep. Allen Fletcher (to my left) and Vice-Chair of Energy Resources, Rep. Ralph Sheffield (to my right).

Ban on Texting While Driving

This week the House passed HB 63 with 97 Yeas and 45 Nays. This bill makes it a misdemeanor offense for a driver to use a handheld wireless communication device to read, write, or send a text, instant message, e-mail, or other text-based communication while driving unless the vehicle is stopped.

Thirty-nine states and the District of Columbia have enacted bans on texting while driving. Studies have shown that such laws have reduced crashes when combined with enforcement and education. Texting while driving has injured and killed drivers, passengers, and innocent bystanders. These accidents have cost Texas an estimated \$684 million in 2011 based on national accident loss statistics. I heard from several constituents of House District 112 in support of this legislation, and I did vote yes on the bill.

HB 63 will now go to the Senate and, if passed, to the Governor for his signature. Last session, Governor Perry vetoed similar legislation because he felt that it was unnecessary for government to micromanage the behavior of adults.



Texas Federation of Republican Women were in town this week. Here I am with Dot Adler of Richardson, a dear friend of mine, along with Betty Dawson. I presented Dot with a resolution on the Floor for being a recipient of the Anita Hill Lifetime Achievement Award.

Youth Leadership Garland

Youth Leadership Garland joined us at the Capitol this week. This year's class was made up of several high school students. Leadership Garland is sponsored by the Garland Chamber of Commerce in order to develop characteristics and skills of civic leaders for those living and working in Garland. The youth program starts training leaders at an early age. Representative Cindy Burkett and I had the chance to talk to the students about serving Garland as state representatives as well as the future careers of the students. It was inspiring to meet with the future leaders of our community. I am pictured with the group below.



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.