

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



February 8, 2013

Friends,

Today marks the 30th day of the 83rd legislative session. This week, bills have started to be referred to committees where they can have public hearings. If legislation is passed out of committee, it will then move over to the Calendars committee to be set for a floor debate.

After the last legislative session, a lawsuit was filed against the state on the grounds that public school funding was insufficient and relied too heavily on local property tax. On Monday, District Judge John Dietz ruled in favor of the districts on all of their major claims against the school finance system, saying that Texas has violated its constitution by failing to fairly or sufficiently fund public schools. The state is expected to appeal the ruling to the Texas Supreme Court, which will not rule on the case until after this year's session ends.

The legislature has a duty to ensure each child has the best education possible. Every child, parent, and taxpayer deserves a complete judicial review of both the funding and delivery of education in Texas. While we wait for this lawsuit to run its full course, legislators are moving forward with significant policy changes to the public education system. Chairman of the Public Education Committee, Representative Jimmie Don Aycock, filed HB 5 earlier this week. Chairman Aycock described the broad coursework, assessment, and accountability bill as a starting point for what promises to be a lengthy discussion over education standards in Texas. You may read this bill in its entirety by visiting <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/>. I look forward to communicating with you throughout the process.

This week I had the opportunity to speak at the TCEA (Texas Computer Education Association) Annual Conference. The conversation was centered around the need for education to change in light of continual technological advances and the barriers that stand in the way. I made the point

that although there are constraints, like a lack of financial resources, we must continue to look for creative ways to move forward. For example, in Richardson ISD, students are encouraged to bring their own devices. Also on the panel was Dr. Nelson Coulter, Superintendent of the Guthrie Common School District, Representative Mark Strama, and Representative Dan Huberty.

This Sunday, February 10th, marks the beginning of the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Snake. The Lunar New Year is a special holiday that serves as a time to reunite with family members, renew special friendships, and remember past experiences in preparation for good things to come. The Year of the Snake is seen as a good omen as the snake symbolizes wisdom and luck and many in the Asian community see the Year of the Snake as a time of peace and prosperity. On Tuesday, I, along with Representative Hubert Vo and Representative Gene Wu, passed a resolution commemorating the Lunar New Year. I wish all of you sincere best wishes for health, happiness, and prosperity in the coming year.



Texas A&M quarterback and Heisman winner "Johnny Football" Manzielj was honored in the Texas House on Thursday for his accomplishments in last year's football season.



Pictured with Jose Martinez, Collin County Community College Student and Garland resident, in my capitol office.

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.