

# ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas  
House of Representatives



*February 27, 2015*

Friends,

Since first elected, I have been hard at work looking for ways to make government more effective and efficient and to lower the tax burden on Texans.

This week I filed a bill that will double the property tax homestead exemption, which translates to about \$1 billion in tax relief to Texas homeowners. HB 2075 will reduce the average annual property tax bill by about \$200. This is in conjunction with a coordinated effort for Texans to see measurable property tax relief this legislative session. To follow this bill or any legislation moving through the House, please visit <http://www.house.state.tx.us/research/>.

### **Taking Care of Our Teachers**

On Wednesday the House announced it will fully fund health care for hundreds of thousands of retired public school employees. The health care plan covering more than 250,000 people, called TRS-Care, is on track to become insolvent during the fiscal year that begins in September and will have accrued an estimated \$768 million shortfall by the end of fiscal year 2017 if no new money is injected into the plan fund. Texas teachers are an integral part of molding the leaders of tomorrow and many teachers and retirees have expressed their concerns on this matter. I am proud the House will address the shortage of funding.

### **Economic & Small Business Development Committee**

The Economic & Small Business Development Committee met again this Thursday to hear from some leading researchers and experts in the field of economic development. We heard from Mr. Josh Goodman, a senior researcher with Pew Charitable Trusts, who came in all the way from Washington, DC. He has studied other states and how they oversee the effectiveness and accountability of their economic development programs. One of the main suggestions from the Select Committee on Economic Development Incentives, that met and thoroughly examined these incentive programs, was to ensure transparency and fairness with these programs. I look forward to bringing greater oversight to make these programs better and ensure that Texas remains the top

state for businesses and jobs. We also heard from Texas Workforce Commission Chairman Andres Alcantar. He is the Commissioner appointed to represent the public and I appreciate his work in workforce development.

### **Garland Day**

Wednesday was Garland Day at the State Capitol. I was excited to have my hometown down here to visit with state legislators about issues important to Garland. The Garland Chamber of Commerce helped organize the day, which allowed Garland city officials, Chamber members, and other community leaders a great opportunity to speak with legislators with a united voice. On their first day at the Capitol, I was pleased to recognize the delegation with a state resolution declaring February 25th as Garland Day at the State Capitol.



**I was thrilled to be able to speak with Garland Chamber Chairman Barry Young, Mayor Doug Athas, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Tim Campbell, Councilman Stephen Stanley, Councilman B.J. Williams and the rest of the Garland Day delegation this week.**

### **Parent Teacher Association Day**

This week many of the PTA's from around the state came down to their State Capitol to speak about education issues with their elected officials. I was pleased to see both Garland and Richardson ISD PTA's come down for the day. My staff and I were happy to visit with both groups to hear what was most important to their respective communities.



I enjoyed speaking with members of the Richardson ISD PTA on Wednesday!

### **Courageous Conservative Award**

I was honored to receive the Courageous Conservative Award from the Texas Conservative Coalition this week. My dear friend and colleague from Collin County, Rep. Jodie Laubenberg, presented the award to me in the presence of the Garland delegation. The award was presented for all of the hard work we put in last session to help limit the expansion of government and to protect free enterprise.



Rep. Jodie Laubenberg presenting me with the Courageous Conservative Award.

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).