

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



March 6, 2015

Friends,

The cold weather in Austin did not slow down the pace at the Capitol. Committees have started hearing bills, and legislation will soon make its way to the House floor for full consideration. March 13th is the last day legislators can file bills for the 84th legislative session. With a week still remaining to file legislation, 2,517 bills have been filed in the House alone.

Stronger Border, Safer Texas Act

State funding for border security has more than tripled over the last six years. For years, Texas has been forced to fill the gap in securing our border left by the federal government. We have launched repeated surges with state and local law enforcement all on our own dime. Bi-annually, we spend more than \$200 million to incarcerate criminal aliens in state prisons and our counties spend approximately \$137 million to hold them in our county jails. This is a price paid by every Texan in every community.

Border crime is not just a border problem; it is a Texas problem, and it requires a statewide response. To address this, I coauthored HB 11, the Stronger Border, Safer Texas Act. This is a bipartisan bill that will help law enforcement stop border-related crime where it occurs throughout the state. This bill addresses the problem at its roots by enhancing and strengthening the resources available to DPS troopers, Texas Game Wardens, and local law enforcement along the border.

Additionally, this bill creates a DPS Officer Reserve Corps comprised of retired DPS officers who will assist with background investigations, sex offender compliance checks, and other duties. They will help law enforcement not only on the border, but across the state.

Under the Stronger Border, Safer Texas Act, those caught smuggling contraband into Texas will face tougher penalties and those attempting to smuggle vehicles, guns, or money into Mexico will face southbound checkpoints within 250 yards of the border. This bill will also ensure uniformity

and transparency of crime data between law enforcement agencies at all levels of government through the adoption of the National Incident Based Reporting System.

If the federal government actually did its job, these measures would not be necessary but today, our border remains unsecure. As long as this is the case, Texas must continue to fill the gap.



Announcing the Stronger Border, Safer Texas Act with Bill Author Representative Dennis Bonnen and Co-Authors of HB 11

Richardson Day

This week we celebrated Richardson Day at the State Capitol. I was very excited to have my friends from Richardson down here to visit with legislators about issues important to our area. The day brought together members of the Richardson Chamber of Commerce, elected officials from the city and representatives from Richardson ISD. I was happy to sit down with all of these groups to discuss issues that are facing our community and how best we could work together to address them.



Pictured with Richardson City Manager Dan Johnson, Councilman Mark Solomon, Mayor Laura Maczka and Councilman Scott Dunn



I enjoyed speaking with the Doctors for Change group that came by my office this week, including my good friend Dr. Lisa Swanson

Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol

March 4th was Texas Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol. Students and faculty mentors from over fifty academic institutions across Texas presented high-quality posters to showcase how research positively impacts Texas. I was excited to have two participants from our area, Dr. Danieli Rodrigues and her student Maria Burbano, from the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) come present their work to their state legislators and the public. I had the opportunity to meet with Dr. David Daniel, President of UTD, to discuss issues important to the university.

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.