

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



March 20, 2015

Friends,

Spring has officially arrived in Texas. I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather. The pace has picked up in Austin as bills are now being heard on the House and Senate floors. Committees are still hard at work hearing public testimony on legislation. I have heard from many of you on issues that are important to you. I consider your emails and phone calls when making any vote on the House floor. Please continue to share your views on issues that are important to you by calling my office or emailing me at Angie.Button@house.state.tx.us.

Protecting our Border

HB 10 and HB 11, both aimed at stopping crime that begins at our border, passed the House of Representatives this week. To combat sex trafficking, HB 10 creates a Child Sex Trafficking Prevention Unit, eliminates the statute of limitations on forcing children into prostitution, grants immunity for witnesses in prostitution cases, and requires the Texas Education Agency to create a school reporting policy for child trafficking. HB 11 authorizes an additional 300 DPS troopers for border security operations, criminalizes the act of forcing a person to enter the country illegally, and strengthens our smuggling laws, among other reforms. Both of these bills seek to reduce the rampant crime that is occurring on our state's southern border. I believe that both bills take meaningful strides towards that goal. I was proud to co-author and vote yes on both of these important pieces of legislation.

Small Business Sales Tax Free Saturday

Small businesses are the backbone of the Texas economy and employ more than half of the private workforce. For every \$100 spent at locally owned businesses, \$68 stays in the local economy. Texas's small businesses are key to the state's well-being. They account for a significant share of the state's economic production and hiring. Small businesses create most of Texas's new jobs, and they bring dynamic ideas, innovative services, and new products to the marketplace.

I filed House Bill 2694 to create a one day only sales tax exemption for shopping conducted on Small Business Saturday. Small Business Saturday falls on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This bill will encourage shoppers to get out and shop in their communities just in time for the holidays, while keeping their dollars local. HB 2694 will give small businesses another marketing tool to help drive customers into their stores. I am excited about this wonderful opportunity to bolster the local economy and to show support for Texas' small businesses.



Speaking about Small Business and HB 2694 with Comptroller Glenn Hegar, Representative Dwayne Bohac, and Representative Spitzer

Visitors at the Capitol

This week, I had the pleasure of meeting and welcoming our friends from the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) to the capitol. The UTD Academic Bridge Students came down with their University President, Dr. David Daniel, to visit with their state lawmakers about their experiences as first generation college students. I also had the honor of meeting members of our Texas National Guard while they were at the capitol for Texas Military Forces Day. I thank all of the brave men and women who serve our state and country. I also had the pleasure of seeing Rowlett Mayor Todd Gottel at the state capitol this week. He came to testify before the transportation committee.



Pictured with Maj. Gen. William Smith and members of the Texas National Guard



Pictured with my colleagues Rep. Linda Koop & Rep. Helen Giddings along with UTD's President Dr. David Daniel and Academic Bridge Scholars

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.