

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



July 5, 2016

Friends,

I hope everyone had a happy and safe Fourth of July! I enjoyed spending the long holiday weekend around the district with friends and family.

Budget

Earlier this month, Governor Greg Abbott, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and House Speaker Joe Straus instructed state agencies how to prepare their Legislative Appropriations Requests (LAR) for the next state budget. Each agency submits a request highlighting priorities and strategies for carrying out their mission over the next two years. Legislators take those requests into consideration as they prepare to introduce budgets at the beginning of the legislative session.

They called for agencies to identify ways to cut spending by 4 percent. A handful of programs and areas of the budget are excluded from the request, including the Foundation School Program, Child Protection Services, border security and mental health programs. It is important that we pass a transparent, balanced budget that demonstrates fiscal restraint and discipline while still meeting the state's obligations.

Economic Development

Last month, the House Committee on Economic & Small Business Development, which I chair, held its sixth and final public hearing of this interim. We looked at the economic impact of the rise of the "sharing economy." The sharing economy refers to the peer-to-peer based sharing of goods and services. Sharing economy businesses include ridesharing services like Uber and Lyft, as well as vacation home rental marketplaces like HomeAway and Air BnB. We heard from some of these businesses on how many jobs and dollars they are bringing to Texas. We also heard from the corresponding existing, traditional businesses like taxi cab companies and hotels to really examine the full impact. We must make sure that the state and our policies do not hinder the

growth of these new technologies and businesses, while maintaining customer safety and satisfaction.

The Committee caught up with Bryan Daniel of the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism on the implementation of HB 26, including the roll out of the Governor's University Research Initiative. The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) also updated us on the transfer of some vocational rehabilitation programs formerly under the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to TWC. If you or your family are affected by this transition and need any assistance please contact my office.

Around the District

Last month, I stopped by the Richardson Chamber's Public Policy Committee meeting along with my House colleagues Rep. Jeff Leach and Rep. Linda Koop, to talk about the upcoming session as well as the hot button issues that are sure to be discussed. I was honored to spend an evening with many of my friends at the Philippine Republic Day event, which celebrates the Philippines independence from Spain over 100 years ago.

Lastly, we got to celebrate America's independence just this past weekend! I loved being a part of so many events. On Saturday, I joined the city of Sachse in their annual 4th of July Parade. On Monday morning, I was happy to walk in another parade, this time for the SpringPark neighborhood in Garland. I spent the evening in Rowlett, where they held their Fireworks Celebration near the Kids Kingdom Park. I ended the night in Richardson at their Family Fourth Celebration at Breckinridge Park. It was such a wonderful weekend commemorating our independence!



Pictured speaking at the Rowlett Fireworks Celebration along with Mayor Pro Tem Tammy Dana-Bashian and Rep. Cindy Burkett



Pictured at the Richardson Family Fourth Celebration along with Rep. Linda Koop, Rep. Jeff Leach, Mayor Paul Voelker, and Congressman Pete Sessions



Celebrating with my neighbors in the SpringPark parade in Garland

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative. Please contact me 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.texas.gov