

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas House of Representatives



April 28, 2017

Friends,

With deadlines approaching, the Texas House is working very long hours debating important legislation on the House Floor.

Honoring Our First Responders

This week, I laid out HB 570 before the committee on Ways & Means. As you all remember, on July 7th, 2016, the city of Dallas was attacked and five of our brave law enforcement officers lost their lives. This was the most deadly attack on law enforcement in our nation since 9/11. Five families lost loved ones that day, but this is unfortunately not unique to Dallas. Since records have been kept, almost 2,000 Texas families have lost their loved ones in service to our communities and state.

We are all aware of the rising property taxes across the state and the burden it places on homeowners. This is especially burdensome for the families that must also deal with the tragedy

of losing a loved one in the line of duty. HB 570 seeks to provide a small but meaningful difference to these families by exempting the surviving spouse from property taxes on their homestead. This will affect all families that have lost their spouse regardless of when they were killed.

Nothing we could do here could lessen the grief that these families feel, but HB 570 seeks to relieve one small burden on these families that have had to cope with so much already.

Prohibiting Sanctuary Cities

Wednesday was a long day that stretched into the early morning hours as the House discussed and debated SB 4, the anti-sanctuary cities legislation. This bill requires local law enforcement officials to comply with all detainers issued by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). It would make it a Class A misdemeanor for local officials to refuse to honor those detainers. This would affect only those people that are arrested or legally detained. SB 4 was passed by the Senate earlier this session and will now head back there to determine whether or not the Senate concurs with the changes the House made to the bill. If they do not concur, then the bill will head to a conference committee where the differences will be ironed out before heading to the Governor's desk.

Eliminating a Bad Tax

Earlier today, the House of Representatives gave final approval to much needed tax reforms for Texans and Texas businesses. I proudly coauthored HB 28 to put the franchise tax on a path toward elimination ultimately saving taxpayers over \$8 billion. Eliminating this tax will not only help struggling businesses, but will also keep more money in the Texas economy. This tax has been problematic since its inception and our community has been calling for franchise tax reform for many years. I am proud to be part of the solution.



It is a pleasure to serve with great legislators like Representatives Linda Koop and Lance Gooden.



On Thursday, I was very happy to welcome Caroline and Hailey Duggan as my honorary pages of the day with Representative Lynn Stucky. The Honorary Page program gives children the opportunity to learn about the legislative process. Thank you for coming to your Texas State Capitol!

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.texas.gov