

# ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



## The State of Texas House of Representatives



*May 21, 2017*

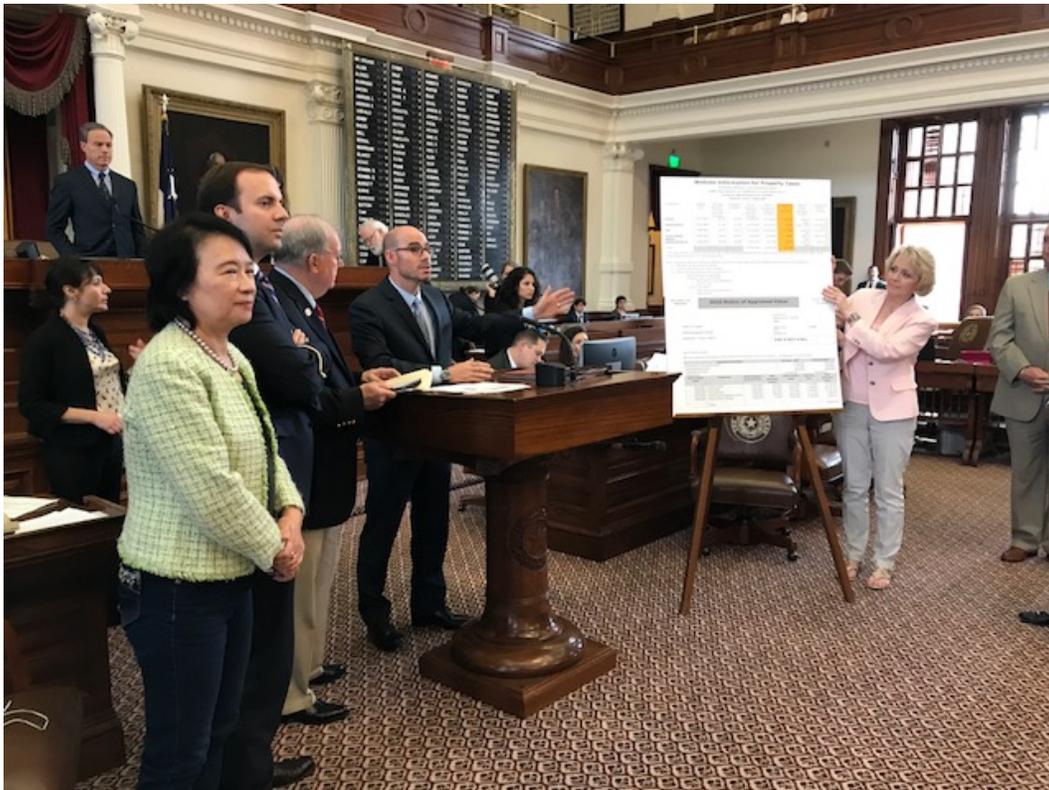
Friends,

There are eight days left in the 85th Legislative Session. It is Sunday and the House is currently in session and spending long hours on the floor, working hard to pass legislation meaningful to Texans.

### **Property Tax Transparency Reform**

Today, the House unanimously voted to reform property taxes by amending SB 669. Currently, it is incredibly difficult for property taxpayers to tell who is taxing them at what rate. I firmly believe Texans should not have to wait until their property taxes go above a specified percent change before they are allowed to take recourse. Under this proposal, local governments would have to announce a “no-new-revenue” tax rate each year and compare it to the rate they are actually proposing. Taxpayers would get a copy of that and could intervene before the rates are finally set. If you do not like the proposed rate, your notice will tell you the date and location of

the public hearing. This bill provides much needed reform. SB 669 will now head back over to the Senate for approval.



Working to Pass Property Tax Transparency Reform on the Floor of the House.

### **Pro-Life Legislation**

This week the House passed measures to further protect life that would ban a common form of second-trimester abortion after more than five hours of emotional debate. Additionally, the bill prohibits health service providers from donating fetal tissue from elective abortions to medical researchers. It requires health care facilities to dispose of embryonic or fetal tissue by burial or cremation. Additionally, it enacts a state ban on late-term abortions, which already are prohibited nationally. This legislation was necessary, in part, because the state does not have the authority to enforce existing federal law banning so-called “partial-birth abortions.”

### **Ensuring the Proper Use of Your Tax Dollars**

On Saturday, SB 634 passed the House. I had the honor of sponsoring this legislation that Senator Estes carried in the Senate. This legislation adds an enforcement mechanism to the requirement that all colleges receiving Skills Development Funds issue required reports. Those not in compliance would have to return funds and would not be eligible to participate in the program until they comply with the reporting requirements.

The Skills Development Fund is Texas' premier job-training program providing local, customized training opportunities for Texas businesses and workers to increase skill levels and wages of the Texas workforce.

### **CPS Reform**

On Thursday, the Texas House continued to address crises in the state's child welfare system by passing SB 11, which would shift Texas's child welfare system to a "community-based care" model for handling some endangered children and allow contracted organizations to monitor children in foster care and adoptive homes. SB 11 would create a pilot program for non-profit organizations to handle behavioral health care for children and require managed care organizations be notified of a child's placement change within twenty-four hours. Additionally, children under conservatorship would have to have medical exams in a timely manner after entering into the system and would require the Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS) to retain abuse and neglect records for longer periods of time. The Texas Legislature is continuing to address issues facing CPS.



I am so proud to have the opportunity to serve with these wonderful women in the Texas House.

Sincerely,

*Angie Chen Button*

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[Angie.Button@house.texas.gov](mailto:Angie.Button@house.texas.gov)