

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas House of Representatives



January 25, 2019

Friends,

It has been a very eventful week at the Capitol. On Wednesday, Speaker Bonnen announced committee appointments. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Committee on Urban Affairs. I was also appointed to serve on the Higher Education Committee.

The Urban Affairs Committee has jurisdiction over municipalities and municipal matters. The committee also focuses on problems and issues particularly affecting metropolitan areas of the state and provides oversight to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. I am excited for the opportunity to chair this committee and to contribute to the health and prosperity of our region and state.

Speaker Bonnen appointed Representative Chris Turner of Arlington to chair the Committee on Higher Education. This committee focuses on all education beyond high school including the colleges and universities in Texas. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to serve for a second session on this important committee.

Public Education

On Tuesday, I sat down with several of my House colleagues and Governor Abbott to work on public school finance reform and property tax relief. Our first goal is to improve student outcomes. Quality teachers are the most important factor to improve student outcomes. Efforts must be made to ensure that the most effective teachers are in the most challenging classrooms and that they have the support and resources they need to do their best. We also need to make the funding formula more efficient and equitable. The current formula is outdated and does not accurately reflect student need. When addressing these problems, we must also ease the reliance on property taxes to fund public education. In our current system, as property values rise, recapture growth will continue to skyrocket. Recapture or "Robin Hood" was designed to promote equity among school districts but due to a fixed tax rate, many taxpayers are paying a local tax bill that is far greater than the benefit being received by their communities.

We had a wonderful workgroup with the Governor and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House as well as the Senate to pass meaningful school finance reform.



Discussing School Finance with Governor Greg Abbott and Representatives Bonnen, Patterson, Bell, Klick, and Cyrier.



Discussing the budget with Appropriations Chairman, John Zerwas and Representative Matt Krause.

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