

# ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



## The State of Texas House of Representatives



*March 8, 2019*

Friends,

Happy International Women's Day!

Today marks the 60th day of the 86th legislative session and the bill filing deadline. Legislators must file any legislation they plan to carry that is not considered a local bill by 6 PM. At the time of this newsletter, 4,403 bills have been filed in the Texas House.

Texas' current school finance system is out of date. It is built on funding formulas that are decades old and that no longer work. The current finance system ties up billions of dollars in antiquated funding mechanisms that do not support the needs of our students or educators. Over the years, the legislature has been working to fix the system but as a result of unnecessary divides, we have only been able to come to a consensus when forced by the court. This band-aid approach to fixing school finance ends now, with HB 3. I proudly co-authored this historic piece of legislation that

will free up billions of dollars for reinvestment into programs that meet the classroom needs of today's students and tomorrow's workforce.

HB 3 was crafted from years of research, data collection, and personal testimony. The bill will realign the entire school finance system to support student achievement and prioritize teacher quality. This \$9 billion investment is a substantial increase in the state's share of public education funding and will reduce recapture while relieving the property tax burden felt by homeowners. This investment provides stability for school districts and funding that will last well beyond two years. HB 3 focuses on how much we are investing in classrooms. This is the only way we can truly transform our school system.

When it comes to reforming our public school finance system, the time is now. Please visit [www.thetexasplan.com](http://www.thetexasplan.com) to take a closer look at The Texas Plan.

### **Garland Scottish Rite Club**

On Monday, we honored the Scottish Rite Club of Garland on their tremendous contributions to our community. Founded in 1956, the group provides generous scholarships and hosts blood drives working with the Hope Clinic of Garland. Their commitment to bettering our city and their acts of kindness and generosity are commendable. I was privileged to recognize officers Don Dacon, Joe French, Eric Stuyvesant, and Dean Patterson on the house floor.



**I was honored to take members of the Garland Scottish Rite Club onto the House Floor.**

### **Richardson Legislative Day**

March 6th was Richardson Day at the Capitol. Members of the Richardson Chamber of Commerce, city council, Richardson ISD, and community leaders came down to the state capitol to visit with their state legislators. Richardson is the "International Business Capital of North Texas" and hub of "The Telecom Corridor." Richardson is home to or in close proximity to 10,000 corporate headquarters and 44 Fortune 500 Companies. Richardson has a highly skilled and well educated workforce

and is the home of UT Dallas and Richland College. I was honored to commemorate their success with a resolution, where their achievements will be enshrined into Texas history.



**Speaker Bonnen, Rep. Leach, and I were honored to welcome the Richardson delegation on their legislative visit.**

### **Urban Affairs**

This week in the Committee on Urban Affairs we heard from a demographer from Rice University's Kinder Institute on Urban Research on the state's changing demographics. Although sometimes not thought of as such, Texas is a predominantly urban state. 65% of all Texans live within the top four metropolitan areas, Houston, Dallas, Austin and San Antonio. 77% of the Texas economy is contained within this "Texas Triangle," as well as 80% of population growth in the state. Since 1900, the urban population has grown from 17% to 85% of the Texas population. With this significant growth of the state's urban areas, there are many challenges cities face ranging from housing and infrastructure to demands for public services. This session, our committee will take a look at several bills that seek to address these issues. The committee also heard our first bills of the session.

### **Higher Education**

This week in the Higher Education Committee, we voted our first bills out of committee. One of those bills is HB 80, which I joint-authored with Representatives Ortega, Howard, Sheffield, and Stucky, to commission a study to analyze the shortage of workers in certain health care professions. The goal of this bill is to return more health care professionals to our Texas workforce and better meet the increasing health care needs of our residents. The Higher Education Committee also heard testimony on a bill I joint-authored, HB 60, which would require public

institutions of higher education to provide students with information regarding women's health programs.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like additional information on any of the bills discussed in the newsletter or if I can be of assistance in any way.

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative.

Sincerely,

*Angie Chen Button*

If you would like to be added or removed from this mailing, please e-mail [Angie.Button@house.texas.gov](mailto:Angie.Button@house.texas.gov).