



Week in Review February 6th, 2017

Please Stay in Touch



We want to hear from you. Please direct all written correspondence to:

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[House District 113](#)

*Rep. Burkett
Legislative Info*



--Bills--

Author

Co-author

Greetings!

Last week was a busy week in the Texas Legislature!

On Tuesday, Governor Greg Abbott delivered the State of the State address to the Texas House. He declared four issues as emergency items: repairing the Child Protective Services system, implementing ethics reform, banning sanctuary cities and supporting a convention of states to amend the US Constitution. By declaring these items as emergencies, it allows the Legislature to take up these items sooner than would usually be allowed by the Constitution.

Governor Abbott also addressed the importance of protecting the unborn: something that is of utmost importance to me. "Every child--born and unborn--deserves dignity. The butchering of unborn babies for trade in the open market is barbaric," Gov Abbott said. He continued by stating "Senator Schwertner, Representative Burkett, I want legislation on my desk that criminalizes the sale or donation of baby body parts."



Photo courtesy of MARTIN DO NASCIMENTO / KUT.

Just hours before the address, I filed House Bill 200 to ban partial-birth abortions in Texas and prohibit the sale of fetal tissue. I believe this bill is an important piece of legislation that protects the unborn and women of our state.



CPS working group press conference on Monday.

In a press conference Monday, the CPS working group in the House delivered our proposed changes to the Department of Family and Protective Services in order to improve CPS and the Foster Care system of Texas. This bipartisan group of Texas House members that I am apart of has worked hard to create legislation that I believe will steer our state's child welfare system in the right direction. These bills, which will be filed in the coming days, will strengthen child protective services (CPS) and prevention and early intervention (PEI) services, while also improving support for kinship families. You may find a recording of this press conference [here](#).

As always, it is a pleasure to serve the people of District 113. Please contact me should you need anything.

Sincerely,

Cindy Burkett

Cindy Burkett
State Representative
House District 113

Happenings in District 113



There was a good turnout at the TxDOT meeting regarding the expansion plans for 635.



I am grateful for the service of Retired Captain Jack Peoples. Pictured above are some of the members of Rowlett Fire Station 4.



I am always pleased to see the women of our district step up in politics. I made it back to town just in time to join the Mesquite Republican Women's Club on Thursday evening.

Legislative Highlights

House Bill 200 bans partial-birth abortions and prohibits the sale of fetal tissue in Texas.

- Partial-birth abortions were banned at the Federal level by the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 and its constitutionality was upheld by the United States Supreme Court.
- Since the Federal Government declined to enforce the ban under President Obama, Texas had no recourse to enact penalties on those doctors who continued to perform the procedures.
- HB 200 would make the federal ban state law, providing Texas an enforcement mechanism in the future.
- At the same time, HB 200 would also ban the sale or donation of fetal tissue (unborn body parts) after receiving an elective abortion.

- This bill has the support of several pro-life organizations in Texas that have been vital to the protection of the unborn and women.

For a full list of bills I have filed in the 85th Session, [click here](#).

Around the Capitol



Chief Justice Nathan Hecht delivered the State of the Judiciary address on Wednesday.



It was a pleasure to meet with several of my constituents on Indian American Culture Day.



It was great fun watching the House Upperclassmen beat the Freshman House members 35-18 at the TX House flag football game (even with help from two Commissioners!)



Meeting with Mesquite Independent School District. These women are working hard for the education of the students of Mesquite.

Capitol Visitor Information

Are you planning a trip to the Capitol this Spring? Be sure to stop by our new office, Room GN.10 Here's some helpful information for your visit:

- [Texas Capitol Visitors Center Information](#)
- [Capitol Visitors Parking Garage Information](#)
- [Capitol Complex Maps](#)
- [Capital Accessibility Information](#)