

PHILIP CORTEZ, PH.D.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 117

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www.house.texas.gov

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 117



86TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 117

Dear Neighbor,

It continues to be a great honor and privilege to represent the people of Texas House District 117. The 86th Legislative Session came to an end May 31, 2019, and we had a successful session with the continued support from our passionate community.

Serving as your representative for a third legislative session, we continued to fight for our senior citizens, military families and veterans, and our students. Additionally, we filed legislation to create good paying jobs right here in Bexar County. In this newsletter you will find important information regarding the legislation my team and I successfully passed and was signed into law by Governor Abbott.

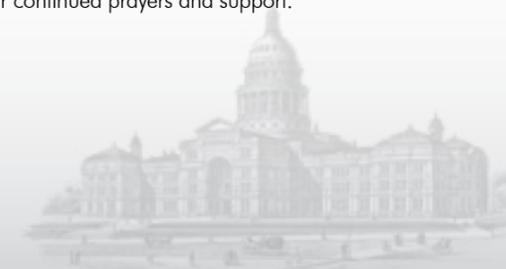
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As we move forward, I'm asking you, the residents of District 117, to provide your input on the issues that matter most to you. By reaching out to us and making your voices heard, you will be the leading advocates for change in our community, and for ensuring the preservation and enhancement of the progress we've already made.

Please know that my staff and I are available to meet with you to hear your concerns. You are always welcome to visit our local district office. Several methods for contacting my staff are provided on the back of this newsletter. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Yours in service,

Philip Cortez
Philip Cortez, Ph.D.



A meeting of the House Committee on Appropriations.

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I want to hear from you. Please call my office to share your ideas, concerns or to ask questions.

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Representative Philip Cortez, Ph.D.
Clarissa Rodriguez, Chief of Staff
Kady Kelly, District Director
David Early, Legislative Director
Hannah Reinhard, Legislative Assistant
Jim Boynton, Senior Advisor



My staff and I at the House District 117 Annual Back to School Fair.

★ WE ARE DISTRICT 117 ★

HOUSE DISTRICT 117 ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

After the 86th Legislative Session came to an end, my office, along with local businesses and non-profit organizations, hosted the Annual House District 117 Back to School Fair at Palo Alto College. This year's event was a huge success, providing children with 1,400 backpacks plus school supplies to get ready for the 2019-2020 school year. In addition, kids received immunizations and families were assisted with applying for programs including SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, and CHIP.

Thank you to Palo Alto College for providing a fantastic venue, as well as our local partners, including the San Antonio Food Bank, that make this event possible every year through their ongoing dedication to serving the kids and families of our community. I hope that everyone has a great school year and I look forward to seeing you all again next year.



★ COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS ★

It was an honor to serve on Article II of the House Committee on Appropriations. This opportunity placed me in the position to appropriate money for the state of Texas specific to health and human services. We fought vigorously this session to ensure the state allocates the necessary funding for a better quality of life for all Texans. Additionally, I served as Vice Chair for the House Committee on Elections. During the 86th Legislative Session, we made sure every Texan has equal access to the ballot box, while protecting election security.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS:

This committee is assigned the enormous responsibility of creating a two-year budget for the entire state of Texas, and we passed House Bill 1. HB 1 creates a \$250.7 billion two-year budget, covering everything from education to business and economic development. As a member of Article II of the Appropriations Committee, I worked to secure \$84 billion for health and human services programs in Texas.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS:

The responsibility of this committee is to oversee the process of conducting elections across Texas. As Vice Chair, I successfully passed HB 2640, an omnibus elections bill that provides clarification and modernization to laws regarding the process by which political parties select their candidates for public office.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS CALENDARS:

This committee is tasked with passing legislation that is symbolic on behalf of Texas. As a member of this committee, we worked to memorialize people of importance, oversee matters concerning House rules, procedures, and operations, and express concern or commendation on topics of significance. We also passed legislation to congratulate athletes and other role models, devoted public servants, and other people and organizations that play a key role in the culture, history, and civic life that make Texas unique.

★ HELPFUL NUMBERS ★

SECRETARY OF STATE

Election & Voter Registration Information (512) 463-5650

DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES

Complaint and Intake Unit..... (800) 458-9858

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Main Toll Free Number..... (800) 252-8011

Child Support Division..... (800) 252-8014

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL EQUALITY

Environmental Complaints/

Non-Spill Emergencies Hotline..... (888) 777-3186

TEXAS MEDICAL BOARD

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Driver's License (512) 424-2600

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS..... (800) 525-0657

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION..... (800) 252-8387

TEXAS DEPT. OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Customer Call Center..... (512) 465-3000

★ FOUR PILLARS FOR DISTRICT 117 ★

Upon my election, District 117 residents identified the most important issues to our district:

Education, Job creation for working class families, Veterans, and Senior Citizens

The table below highlights our successes in those areas most important to you.

EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the wake of the tragedy at Sante Fe High School, HB 1825/SB 2135 improves communication between law enforcement officials and school superintendents when addressing potentially dangerous students. This legislation will strengthen school safety in our community and across Texas.
JOBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 78th Legislative Session established the Texas Military Value Revolving Loan Fund to offer a low-cost alternative for military communities to fund needed projects for either base redevelopment, or to enhance and protect active installations. HB 2119 will make this borrowing process more efficient, thus bringing more jobs to Military City, U.S.A., specifically Port San Antonio.
VETERANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HB 1351 protects the data of veterans and their families who have used services provided by the Texas Veterans Commission. This bill will assist Texas veterans by providing them with the services they need, without being subject to economic targeting or data mining for any purpose.
SENIOR CITIZENS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a member of Article II of the House Appropriations Committee, I worked to ensure \$140.9 million be allocated for Adult Protective Services in the 2020-2021 biennium. Included in HB 1, this funding will add new caseworkers as well as salary increases for those caseworkers. This means the state will have more personnel to protect senior citizens from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

ADDITIONAL BILLS PASSED

- HB 4260** allows public and private entities to have better access to and administration of epinephrine auto injectors. These devices are used to treat anaphylaxis, which is a serious allergic reaction that can be life-threatening.
- HB 408/SB 225** directs the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to create specialty license plates for Army of Occupation Medal recipients. These veterans were stationed overseas in the aftermath of World War II and served to protect peace around the world.
- HB 387** increases efficiency within the workers' compensation system by authorizing a licensed Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) to complete and sign the necessary work status report that allows workers to return to gainful employment.
- HB 2584** allows Certified Code Enforcement Officers to possess or carry an instrument used for deterring the bite of an animal, also known as a bite stick. The devices are a humane alternative to instruments that club or shock the animal and are currently allowed for retired law enforcement, investigators, district attorneys, bailiffs, animal control officers, etc. This bill allows Code Enforcement Officers to do their job safely, while simultaneously protecting animals.



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