



**Representative
Dan Huberty**



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Fall is finally here!

It is officially Fall! After months of hot and humid weather, we are finally set to receive some brisk fall breezes. And with that comes all that we love about this season, from festivals to football games.

My family and I are especially looking forward to Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at Turner Stadium. As avid Humble ISD supporters, we are proud to root for all five of our high school teams. I hope you will join us when you have a chance.

This season also brings along many outdoor events. Our family always enjoys the fun weekend activities that bring so many community members together. Do you have an upcoming event we should know about? If so, please contact my staff at either the Capitol or District offices.

If you would like to learn more about any of the items listed in this newsletter, please contact my staff at either the District Office, 281-360-9410, or the Capitol Office, 512-463-0520. And remember you can always contact me through the House website at www.house.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty
State Representative- District 127

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Rep. Huberty Responds to USDE Denial of NCLB Waiver

In the 83rd session, State Representative Dan Huberty passed a bill that would have reduced the overly burdensome standardized testing of students in grades 3 through 8. Currently, those students are required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) to take 17 standardized tests. House Bill (HB) 866 directed the Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to request a waiver from NCLB for the state in order to allow high-performing students to be exempt from some standardized tests. TEA submitted the waiver to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) last month, and just this week received the denial from the USDE. Had the waiver been approved, high-performing students would have been exempt from taking certain math and reading assessments in grades 4, 6, and 7.

"I am greatly disappointed in the federal government's lack of action on this very necessary relief of testing for students, parents and teachers. As a parent of three children in public school, who are all subject to these tests, I know firsthand the frustration and exhaustion that comes from these excessive standardized tests. My colleagues and I had high hopes that the USDE would recognize the outcry of our constituents and would allow our state to focus testing on those students who need it most, and exempt those who simply do not. However, like so many other issues we are facing, inaction on behalf of the federal government remains a constant barrier." House Bill 866 is one of several pieces of education-related legislation passed by Representative Huberty in the 83rd Legislative Session.

HAAM Pillars of the Community Event

On Thursday, September 19, community members gathered at the Kingwood Country Club to honor the 2013 recipients of the HAAM Pillars of the Community awards. The annual event is held to "celebrate the hands and hearts of Lake Houston." Representative Huberty was honored to be on hand at the fourth annual event to celebrate veteran HAAM volunteers, the Kingwood Women's Club and Bonnie Longnion.

Longnion was honored for her service to the community as a longtime Humble Independent School District board of trustees. It was through the board where Longnion had the opportunity to volunteer for numerous organizations in the community. Longnion retired from Lone Star College as an administrator and serves as a part-time adjunct instructor for the University of Houston-Downtown.

The 2013 presenters are Philippe and Mieke Cras, Tony and Leslie Raffa and Larry and Cynthia Shiflet who were all recognized as Pillars of the Community at last year's event.



Representative Huberty with Robin Martinez and Hon. Lynn Fields

Texas Department of State Health Services Urges Precautions for Hunters and Ranchers

The Texas Department of State Health Services is urging hunters and ranchers to take precautions to protect themselves from diseases transmitted by animals. Deer, sheep, goats, cattle, horses and other animals can contract anthrax, a bacterium that can cause a severe, life-threatening disease in both humans and animals. The first case of anthrax this year was recently confirmed in a sable antelope herd on a ranch in Edwards County, an area of West Texas where anthrax is most likely to occur. Animals usually get the disease by swallowing anthrax spores while grazing. Anthrax is a naturally occurring disease with worldwide distribution, including Texas. "Hunters and livestock owners should be aware of anthrax cases in their area and take steps to protect themselves, such as not touching sick or dead animals," said Dr. Tom Sidwa, manager of the Zoonosis Control Branch at DSHS. "Basic precautions can minimize the chance of contracting anthrax or other diseases transmitted by wildlife."

People usually get anthrax through handling a dead or sick animal infected with anthrax. Anthrax infection in humans usually involves infection of the skin. Skin infection is typically itchy and resembles an insect bite. Within two to six days it progresses into a painless ulcer with a depressed black center. Although humans are susceptible to anthrax infection, no cases have been reported in Texas this year. Basic precautions can effectively reduce the risks of humans contracting anthrax and other diseases from livestock and game animals.

- Do not harvest animals that appear ill or are acting abnormally.
- Wear long-sleeved garments and gloves when handling, dressing and processing game.
- Use sanitary practices such as hand washing with soap and water and laundering clothes immediately after animal exposure.
- Minimize contact with animal fluids, brain and spinal tissues.
- Keep pets and children away from dead animals.
- Avoid direct contact with animal bones, horns or antlers.
- Cook all meat until well done before consuming.

People should contact a doctor if they develop an unusual-looking sore on the hands, arms or other exposed skin. Although it is very rare to contract skin anthrax, this infection requires treatment with antibiotics prescribed by a physician.

Texas Tuition Promise Fund Enrollment

If you or someone you know is looking for an affordable way to save for a child's higher education, the Texas Tuition Promise Fund® could be the answer. There's no better time to discover the program or begin saving because the Texas Tuition Promise Fund is open to enrollment through Feb. 28, 2014. (Enrollment for newborns is open through July 31, 2014.)

The Texas Tuition Promise Fund is designed to help families and individuals prepay for all or some future tuition and required fees at any two- or four-year Texas public college or university. Account holders purchase Tuition Units, which represent a fixed amount of undergraduate resident tuition and required fees charged by Texas public colleges and universities. If a beneficiary uses the units to attend a Texas public college or university, market fluctuations won't affect the future value of those Tuition Units.

If you'd like to learn more about the Texas Tuition Promise Fund or enroll, be sure to visit www.TuitionPromise.org. There you'll learn how the program works, find tips and tools for creating a college savings plan and even discover ways to give the gift of college Tuition Units to someone you love. You can also learn more about the program by calling 1-800-445-4723, Option 5. We hope you'll look into the Texas Tuition Promise Fund today. After all, getting started is easy!

Humble ISD Superintendent Dr. Guy Sconzo Honored as State Finalist

Humble ISD Superintendent Dr. Guy Sconzo was honored as a State Finalist for the 2013 Superintendent of the Year award at the Texas Association of School Administrators/Texas Association of School Boards Convention in Dallas. Dr. Sconzo was one of only five finalists selected from a group of 16 regional winners.

Employees, community members and board members have expressed their esteem for Dr. Sconzo, who was named the Region 4 Superintendent of the Year in July. Region 4 ESC encompasses more than one million students in 50 school districts. Sconzo was selected by a panel of board members from school districts within Region 4.

Dr. Sconzo has served as Humble ISD's Superintendent since June 2001. During his 13-year tenure as Superintendent for Humble ISD, Dr. Sconzo successfully managed the District through a time of rapid growth as enrollment increased by more than 10,000 students. He also advocated for students, proactively seeking academic programs that would address the changing needs of Humble ISD. Dr. Sconzo instituted campus visits and goes to each of the District's 41 schools at least twice per year while building relationships with principals and teachers.

Under Dr. Sconzo's leadership, Humble ISD was named one of five Large District State Finalists in the 2013 H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards. His leadership in the community has included the Flaming Arrow District of Boy Scouts of America, Hermann Memorial Northeast Hospital Board, Lake Houston Family YMCA Board and the Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce Board. Dr. Sconzo was the first superintendent in Texas asked to testify in the current school finance lawsuit seeking a more fair and adequate funding system to better serve the needs of all Texas students.

Dr. Sconzo was surprised to see family, students, staff and board members during a pep rally to wish him well in Dallas. A video was shown at the surprise event that included an interview with Representative Huberty. You can view the video in full by [clicking here](#). He extended this honor to the 5,000 employees and board members of Humble ISD, who gathered at a surprise pep rally and state "send-off" to wish him well. "In my heart," Sconzo said during the rally, "I've already won by being here with all of you."

