



NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE JIM MURPHY

Dear Friends,

We're continuing our interim work to prepare for our next session in January. Conducting research, holding hearings, and engaging stakeholders will allow us to develop effective policy decisions on the issues facing Texas. Like most Americans, we are working to understand the implications of the Supreme Court's ruling on the Affordable Care legislation. At a minimum, it will cost Texas billions in new expenses; require new legislation to develop the insurance exchanges, and place serious strains in terms of new demands on a health care system that is struggling to keep up with current demands. This is not to discount any potential benefits but to present you information as to how it affects our state government and your taxes. Please stay tuned as we work through this complicated and fluid situation.

Just a few weather related notes for you and your family as we head into the Independence Day celebrations. Summer is in full swing and despite the few days of rain, the weather won't cool off anytime soon with temperatures reaching record high levels. We hope all of you make sure to limit your exposure of the sun to a few hours at a time. Please try to avoid being outside from 12-3pm when the day is hottest. If you really must be outside during this time, always apply sunscreen and drink lots of liquids. Don't forget that your pets are not immune to the heat so make sure they have a lot of water and shade when they're outside. Just like humans, keep them inside during peak hours. A couple options for avoiding the blistering sun are going to matinee movies or moving your workout to air-conditioned facilities.

June 1 marked the beginning of hurricane season and we have already tracked four named storms from the Atlantic Ocean. Our Florida neighbors experienced the destruction of Hurricane Debby and we should be ready for any future storms. The City of Houston Office of Emergency Management has provided important steps in preparing for any catastrophes this hurricane season. Among its advice is to have a disaster supply kit ready with enough supplies to a couple days. Here is a link to more information: (http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo_atl.shtml or <http://www.houstontx.gov/citizensnet/enewsletter060612.html#hurricane>).

Independence Day is this week and while we may want to purchase fireworks to celebrate this proud American occasion, the Houston Fire Department reminds us that it is illegal to discharge or even be in

possession of fireworks in the City of Houston. Fines can be as high as \$2,000 so it is worth attending one of the many firework displays around Houston. The Freedom Over Texas firework display at Eleanor Tinsley Park is worth attending: (<http://www.houstontx.gov/july4/index.html>). Whatever you decide to do, we hope that you stay safe.

We trust that you are enjoying our e-newsletters and ask that you please forward a copy to your friends and neighbors. We want to make sure that everyone who wants to receive updates from the Capitol is on our list so please send us your email address and we'll get you your own copy of each issue. If there is a topic you would like to discuss, or you would like to invite me to speak to your group, please call us at 512.463.0514.

As always, if you find yourself in your Capitol, please stop by our office for a visit. We enjoy working for you and look forward to being of service.

Best Regards,



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