



Capitol Update

District 133 Newsletter

"Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible."



Dear Friends,

Things are ramping up at the Capitol and after a quiet winter, there were three committee hearings in just the past two days. You may remember House Bill 5 from the last legislative session. This law, which I coauthored, works to ensure that the children of Texas are prepared for their academic or professional life after high school whether that be in pursuit of higher education or with immediate entry into the workforce. Wednesday's hearing of the **Public Education Committee** was called to monitor the implementation of HB 5 and hear recommendations on possible improvements. The committee heard testimony about the need for the creation of additional rigorous mathematics and science courses to address the current and projected needs of our state's workforce. The Committee also used Wednesday's hearing to review the broad scope of the current TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) exams. The Committee reviewed the format of TEKS, the testing calendar, and the limitation on instructional days that are available. Please know that all committees hear testimony from the public and you are welcome to add your voice here in Austin.

The **Committee on Criminal Procedure Reform** heard testimony regarding the practical and financial considerations involved in implementing a paperless charging system for processing criminal cases. The members on that committee are working hard to keep our justice system working efficiently.

The **Business & Industry Committee** met this week and specifically considered the impact of credit and debit card data theft on Texas consumers and businesses. With the data security problems experienced by some stores last holiday season, we learned that this issue can truly affect all of us. Our hope is that Texans feel secure against credit/data theft.

Please know that all committees hear testimony from the public and you are welcome to add your voice here in Austin. All hearings are archived [here](#) and available for viewing.

As always, my offices in both Houston and Austin are here as a constant resource for you. If you are interested in what is happening now at the Texas Legislature, or around the district, please like our [Facebook page](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) for continuous updates.

If you are ever in Austin please make a trip to my office in the Capitol. We have a place to rest your feet and friendly faces to help you with any questions. We enjoy working for you and look forward to being of service.

Need a Speaker?

Do you need a speaker at your next business meeting? Would your church, club, or civic group enjoy hearing from Jim? Are you a part of a charity or local organization seeking donations for fundraisers? We would love to help out with auction items and door prizes to help raise funds for your organization. Jim is looking for additional ways to serve his neighbors in District 133. **Email [Deanna Harrington](#), our District Director, if you are interested in setting up an event.**

Austin Attractions

If anyone finds themselves in Austin in the near future, please take a moment to visit the Texas Vietnam Heroes Exhibit. Beginning this afternoon the exhibit will be open from 8am to 8pm everyday through Sunday, April 6th. This exhibit coincides with the Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument Dedication Ceremony which will be held this Saturday, March 29th, from 10am-3pm. The Texas Vietnam Heroes Exhibit was developed by the Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument committee to honor and remember every Texan who died in the Vietnam War, including the 102 Texans who remain Missing in Action. For more information on the Exhibit please visit [here](#).

Staff Emails

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