Dear Neighbor,

This newsletter is intended to offer insight into one of the most challenging legislative sessions in Texas history. Landmark legislation was passed that should ultimately shape our great state into an even better place to live, work and raise a family.

Over the 140 days of the 85th Legislative Session, lawmakers considered and approved monumental legislation, which included a state partial birth abortion and dismemberment ban, the state budget, Child Protective Services reform, Mental Health Reform, Sanctuary Cities Ban, Voter ID, tort reform, Bullet Proof Vests for Police Officers and Article V Convention of States legislation.

Despite a budget shortfall of $2.5 billion, due to the drop in oil, legislators passed a balanced budget that kept state spending flat over the next two years, despite continued growth in the Texas population. Legislators worked diligently to ensure essential state services were adequately funded, without raising taxes.

I was honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve, on the Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety which oversees DPS, the Texas Rangers, border security and Second Amendment issues, as well as, the Committee on Investments and Financial Services which oversees banking in Texas, identity theft, the state’s investment climate and the tools to continue creating new jobs here in Texas. As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I had the opportunity to visit and review our security measures along the border and help give DPS the resources they need to continue to secure our border. On the Investments and Financial Services committee, I was able to shape and vote out several measures which cut through regulatory red tape to make Texas a more friendly business environment, while still protecting consumers from bad actors in the lending industry.

The phone calls, emails, letters and office visits from constituents were helpful in identifying the District’s priorities and concerns. Your continued involvement in the Texas legislative process is always greatly appreciated.

Thank you for the honor and opportunity to represent you in the Texas House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Justin Holland
Texas State Representative
In January, Governor Abbott declared his four emergency items to the Senate and House of Representatives during his State of the State address. These are issues that Governor deems necessary for Texas, and authorizes lawmakers to work on them immediately without the constraints of constitutional time limits. Late in the regular session, the Governor added a fifth emergency item. I am proud to say that I coauthored and sponsored all five of Governor Abbott’s emergency items.

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Overview</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Protective Services</td>
<td>House Bill 5, House Bill 4, Senate Bill 11</td>
<td>Package of bills designed to provide added flexibility for DFPS, encourage and provide assistance to families who are raising kin, and finally gives additional funding to DFPS to train and maintain caseworkers to serve children in need.</td>
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<td>Sanctuary Cities</td>
<td>Senate Bill 4</td>
<td>Strengthens State sovereignty in enforcing immigration law by creating penalties for local entities and campus police departments who adopt or enforce policy which prohibits enforcement of immigration laws.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethics Reform</td>
<td>House Bill 500, House Bill 501, and House Bill 505</td>
<td>Package of Ethics reform bills which prohibit elected officials convicted of certain felonies from being paid their government pensions, limits the use of campaign funds for lobbying, and expand transparency of elected officials contracts with government entities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article V Convention of States</td>
<td>Senate Joint Resolution 2</td>
<td>An application on behalf of the 85th Legislature to Congress for an Article V convention for the limited purpose of proposing amendments to the U.S. constitution on a spending cap, limiting the power of the federal government, and term limits for members of Congress.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voter ID</td>
<td>Senate Bill 5</td>
<td>Requires the Secretary of State to establish a program using mobile units to provide election identification certificates to voters in order to satisfy voter ID requirements.</td>
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Representative Holland’s Legislation

During the 85th Session, my office passed a total of 11 pieces of legislation through the Texas House. I worked with stakeholders and constituents to develop solutions to policy issues that are important to House District 33, and are beneficial to Texas. My legislative portfolio covered a vast array of topics that ranged from supporting our police officers to slashing government regulations on small businesses. Below are a few pieces of legislation I passed during the 85th Legislature.

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<td>House Bill 457</td>
<td>A crucial piece of legislation that protects the families of our police officers. The bill adds an additional layer of security to protect peace officer family's identity. Peace officers put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe, and it is the duty of the Legislature to ensure that their families are secure.</td>
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<tr>
<td>House Bill 2949</td>
<td>A free market friendly piece of legislation that cuts unnecessary government regulations. House Bill 2949 keeps the government out of car dealers back office and their back pockets. Texas is a business-friendly state and superfluous bureaucratic hurdles such as the one eliminated in HB 2949, impede our small business’ ability to run efficiently. This legislation will go into effect on September 1, 2017.</td>
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<tr>
<td>House Bill 3784</td>
<td>Expands Texans’ ability to obtain their License to Carry (LTC) a firearm online. The Department of Public safety already embraces a variety of online courses, and now will provide the classroom portion of the LTC class and written test to be taken online. House Bill 3784 eases residents’ access to the written portion of the test while still providing beneficial handgun training on the firing range.</td>
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<tr>
<td>House Concurrent Resolution 42</td>
<td>Names Rockwall, Texas the Free Live Musical Capital of Texas. Local residents are now able to enjoy over 130 free live music performances a year, and the town’s reputation as an important music hub has made it a popular destination for travelers across Texas. HCR 42 recognizes Rockwall’s commitment to free live music and urges that free live music continue to be available to the residents and visitors of the Lone Star State.</td>
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State Rep. Justin Holland’s Committee Appointments for the 85th Legislature

During the 85th Legislature, I was appointed to serve on the Committee of Homeland Security & Public Safety and the Committee on Investments and Financial Services. Both of these committees have great influence over the way Texans protect themselves and how Texas maintains its status as most business friendly state in the country.

The Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety oversees the Department of Public Safety, the Texas Rangers, border security, and Second Amendment issues. House Leadership referred 201 bills to the committee ranging from issues police officer safety to constitutional carry bills such as House Bill 1911 which I cosponsored. After 19 hearings and hours of testimony, the committee sent bills to main body that would keep Texans safer. It was an honor to serve on this committee and I am grateful to have developed relationships with law enforcement from all over the state.

The Committee on Investments and Finance oversees the banking industry in Texas. Under its jurisdiction also falls legislation on identity theft, the state’s investment environment and the regulatory tools needed to continue creating jobs in Texas. After 17 meetings and hours of testimony, the committee voted out 50 bills that were sent before the House of Representatives for debate. On the Investments and Finance Committee, I was able to shape and vote out several measures which cut through regulatory red tape to make Texas a more friendly business environment, while at the same time protecting consumers from bad actors in the lending industry.

Budget

The 85th Legislature passed a budget. The Legislature closed a budget shortfall of $2.5 billion and kept state spending flat over the next two years, despite continued growth in the Texas population. The budget for the next biennium totals approximately $217 billion dollars.

The budget uses $1 billion dollars out of the Economic Stabilization fund, also known as Rainy Day fund, for one-time expenses - and also delays the transfer of $1.8 billion of general revenue into the State Highway Fund which delays a payment to the state highway fund in order to free up that funding for other needs in the current two-year budget.

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Austin Office: (512) 463-0484
PUBLIC EDUCATION

The budget maintains full funding of enrollment growth, gives assistance to districts experiencing rapid property value decreases, allocates funds for new instructional facilities and funds necessary technology upgrades to existing facilities. The Legislature reformed the A-F school rating system to ensure that schools are evaluated more fairly and accurately. The House was able to achieve reform efforts by passing HB 22; this allows for greater local control of school accountability by allowing schools to be rated by the state accountability system or a locally developed accountability system. I was proud to work closely with Rockwall ISD Superintendent Dr. JJ Villarreal to help add a perfecting amendment to the bill and pass it on the House floor.

During the 30 day special session, the Legislature passed House Bill 21 addressing needs in Public Education. HB 21 adds an additional $212 million to buy down premiums and deductibles for TRS-Care. Additionally, HB 21 sets aside $40 million from the Foundation School Program to establish innovative grant programs for students with autism and dyslexia. Public and Charter schools received an additional $322 million in funding over the next biennium.

PRO LIFE

The Legislature took several monumental Pro Life steps during the regular session. The budget defunds Planned Parenthood, and provides $12.3 million for alternatives to abortion. A rider was added to the budget, which authorizes HHSC to spend up to $38.3 million for any appropriated funds if the agency determines there is a demand based on program utilization. Senate Bill 8 was an omnibus Pro Life bill. SB 8 bans partial-birth abortions and prohibits the sale of fetal tissues and organs. While partial-birth abortions are banned by federal law, state prosecutors cannot enforce federal law; this provides an enforcement mechanism for Texas to prosecute those who perform partial-birth abortions. Senate Bill 8 also provides for the disposition of fetal remains and prohibits abortion by dismemberment.

The governor included four Pro Life bills in the call for the special session. All four of the items passed both chambers and were signed into law by Gov. Abbott. HB13 improves abortion complication reporting by increasing the requirements for reporting of complications from abortion. Evidence suggests that current requirements are insufficient and abortion providers have underreported complications. Second, HB 214 removes mandatory coverage for elective abortion from health insurance plans, regardless of whether it is a government plan or a private plan. No one should be forced to pay for an abortion through his or her health insurance plan or taxes. The bill allows optional elective abortion coverage through the purchase of a separate plan. HB215 requires a physician performing an abortion on a minor girl to report how consent for the abortion was obtained. Texas will now know whether consent is obtained by parental consent or by a court order through the judicial bypass process. Finally, SB 11 requires a physician to obtain the consent of a patient or the patient’s designee/surrogate before issuing a Do-Not-Resuscitate order.
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The previous session was marked by a significant budget shortfall of $2.5 billion, due to the drop in oil. Legislators were able to pass a balanced budget that kept state spending flat over the next two years, despite continued growth in the Texas population. Legislators passed several key initiatives that made Texas a more friendly business environment, while still protecting consumers from bad actors in the lending industry.

Committees: Homeland Security and Public Safety • Investments and Financial Services

For any questions or concerns about the State of Texas and Public Education, please contact me at Justin.Holland@house.texas.gov or call (512) 463-0484. I also have office locations in Dallas and Frisco.

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