



CELIA ISRAEL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 50

June 3, 2015

Fellow Texan,

Thank you for contacting our Capitol office on public education issues this session. There is no issue more important than public education. The manner in which we deal with this issue dictates the trajectory of our future economy and the viability of our Texas middle class.

Unfortunately, the state chose to continue to underfund public education, approving a budget that leaves over 30% of Texas schools still receiving less per pupil than before the massive 2011 budget cuts, and \$700 million less than the first House budget I supported. Instead of taking advantage of a booming economy to support our schools, our teachers remain underpaid, our classrooms remain over-crowded, and our school administrators continue to be asked to do more with less.

- HB 4 will create a \$130 million grant program for Pre-Kindergarten improvements that fails to provide full-day pre-k for all Texans. Even with these additional funds, Pre-K funding remains less than it was before the 2011 budget cuts. For a \$400 million appropriation, we could have provided this needed investment beyond question, and I hope to see greater support for young Texans next session.
- HB 1759, the attempt to fix school finance, was not debated on the House floor because of resistance in the senate. Although this bill was not the long-term solution to our school finance issues, I co-authored this measure because it would have provided \$800 million in additional funds to our public schools.

To put these issues in some sort of monetary perspective, we allocated \$800 million to further militarize the border and we left \$11 billion untouched in the rainy day fund.

Feel free to visit my website at <http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/member-page/?district=50>, if you have an interest in other issues. Check out our newsletter tab where we break down many of the issues we covered this session.

Do not hesitate to contact my office at (512) 463-0821 if you ever need anything. I serve on both the Transportation and Elections committees, and our office is always available to help you on other state issues you and your family may need help with. Please know that my office is your office, as the Capitol belongs to the people of Texas.

Sinceramente,

Celia Israel
Texas State Representative, HD 50

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