



Dear Friends,

With less than a month to go, the Texas House is working around the clock to pass bills that will have a significant impact

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Texas House Passes Major Pro-Life Legislation: Wednesday, the Texas House heard and ultimately passed, two substantial Pro-Life bills. Senate Bill 8 which will protect the unborn by banning abortions after a heartbeat has been detected and House Bill 1280 which will ban abortions in the event that the U.S. Supreme Court reverses its ruling under Roe v Wade. I'm a proud joint-author of both bills and with this great victory, Texas remains on the front lines in the fight for innocent life.

Criminal Justice Reform: The death penalty should be reserved for the worst of the worst offenders, for the most heinous crimes, but the current law-of-parties allows those who never intended for anyone to die, much less themselves pull the trigger to be sentenced to death. And that's why I authored House Bill 1340. My bill, which passed the House this week, will do two things. First, it brings Texas in alignment with Eighth Amendment standards by stating that to be convicted of capital murder under a conspirator party rule, a defendant was a major participant in the underlying conspiracy and acted with reckless indifference to human life. Second, it states that in order to impose a death sentence, the jury must find that the defendant intentionally killed the victim or did not actually perpetrate the murder but intended to kill the victim or another.

\$11.2B for our Public Schools

As you know, I've been working hard to ensure our schools are fully funded and provided with the resources needed to ensure a quality, reliable education for our students. I'm so proud of the way our educators, parents and students have faced these trying times: with a can-do spirit, an innovative, creative outlook, and a fierce commitment to ensuring no child is left behind. I'm happy to report that just this week, the State released \$11.2b in federal funding for Texas classrooms, namely to help our schools continue to deal with the student-learning gaps created by the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds will be used over the next few years to supplement the historic investments the Texas Legislature has made in our

classrooms over the past few legislative sessions — including holding our school districts harmless for lower enrollment numbers as a result of the pandemic, funding necessary technology for our kids and educators through Operation Connectivity, and providing financial support to our school districts for COVID-19 related costs incurred during the spring 2020 semester.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

HOPE FOR CANCER PATIENTS: We all know someone — and most of us might even be perhaps related to someone who has battled breast cancer. And, as we know, one of the most prevalent side effects of chemotherapy is hair loss. It's been shown that, when possible, preventing hair loss during chemotherapy treatments can assist in providing positive treatment outcomes. And today there are new, cutting edge procedures which can provide significantly better options for patients when it comes to retaining hair while undergoing cancer treatments. One particular procedure, approved by the FDA for breast cancer patients, is called scalp-cooling. Scalp cooling lowers the temperature of the scalp, thereby constricting the blood vessels and reducing the flow of blood to the hair follicles, which will help reduce hair loss by limiting the amount of chemotherapy drugs reaching the follicles.

My bill, HB 1588, which I've been working on for nearly three years, helps establish coverage in Texas for this innovative and FDA-cleared protocol. Treatments can be administered in tandem with the patient's chemotherapy regimen and the cost is relatively low... especially considering the remarkable, positive benefit to a woman's dignity and self-esteem as she works to recover and continue living strong! After debate today on the House floor, I'm happy to say that HB 1588 passed by an overwhelming margin.

PROTECTING OUR ELECTIONS: The Texas House is firmly committed to ensuring our elections are safeguarded and secure — that every legal citizen has full, unabated access to the ballot box... and that election fraud, in any form or fashion, is rooted out, prosecuted and prevented. In the coming days, the Texas House will take up and consider an omnibus election integrity package which will achieve those important goals and which should hopefully receive bipartisan support. Also, just yesterday the Texas House passed HB 2283 which will prohibit election administrators from accepting large donations from private individuals and organizations for the purpose of administering elections. I'm sure you all recall when Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook, poured \$400 million into the 2020 election cycle claiming to help election administrators when in fact those funds were diverted elsewhere for partisan political purposes. We simply cannot allow that to happen in the State of Texas - and that's why I was proud to support House Bill 2283.

LOOKING AHEAD: With only a month left of session, there is still a lot of work to be done. Over the next several days, the Texas House will be taking up and considering strong election-integrity legislation, pro-life reforms, education and healthcare bills, and also legislative reforms aimed at public safety, criminal justice and policing. Remember, you can track any

bills that are important to you – and communicate directly with me and other legislators - through the [Texas Legislature Online](#).

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

My office is now accepting applications for the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP), an educational scholarship opportunity for a deserving Texas student aspiring to serve through military service. Additional details outlining the TASSP application process and requirements may be found [here](#).

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT!

I can't tell you how great it is to welcome friends and constituents to their Texas Capitol. COVID has changed a lot, but it hasn't closed the People's House - YOUR House - and it was such a joy to get to see and meet with citizens from back home yesterday. Our office is open and you are welcome to come visit us any time!



Have a great weekend friends! And remember – I'm always a phone call away if there is any way I can serve you.

All My Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Leach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Leach

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