

CHRISTINA MORALES

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 145

CAPITOL OFFICE:

P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768-2910
(512) 463-0732 Phone
(512) 463-4781 Fax
christina.morales@house.texas.gov



DISTRICT OFFICE:

6960 Ruscic St., #107
Parking Garage
Houston, TX 77087
(713) 718-5915

Committees: Corrections • Urban Affairs

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Pan Dulce (sweet bread) Honoring Mexican Mother's Day in the Members Lounge

HR 1150 BY REP. MORALES: *Honoring Mexican Mother's Day May 10, 2019*

WHEREAS, Mother's Day is among the most cherished celebrations in Mexican culture, and many Texans of Mexican descent are observing El Día de las Madres on May 10, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Inspired by their neighbors to the north, Mexicans began observing a Mother's Day holiday in the early part of the 20th century; the celebrations of Mother's Day in Mexico and in the United States bear many similarities, with children often presenting their mothers with gifts of candy, cards, or flowers and treating them to a special lunch or dinner; and

WHEREAS, In some Mexican cities, it is customary for children to begin the day by serenading their mothers at their bedside, and some even engage mariachi bands to accompany them;

many families go on to attend a special mass and community breakfast; regardless of the traditions that families embrace, the greatest gift of all is the precious time spent with loved ones; and

WHEREAS, The bond of affection shared between mother and child is eternal, and Mother's Day offers a welcome opportunity for all to express gratitude to their mothers for the unconditional love, support, and wisdom that they have given them throughout their lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate Mexican Mother's Day on May 10, 2019, and extend warmest best wishes to the Texas families who are taking part in this treasured occasion.

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CAPITOL UPDATE

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



DISTRICT 145

Dear Constituents of House District 145:

On the first day of the 86th Legislative Session, I was still a candidate running in a Special Called Election for House District 145. On the day the Texas House was getting organized and electing a new Speaker, time was spent visiting with seniors in the Second Ward neighborhood's and going door-to-door to discuss important issues with voters. After succeeding in the runoff election, the swearing in of office took place on the Texas House Floor in front of family, friends and new colleagues on March 18, 2019.

In normal circumstances, new Texas House members have a couple of months to transition into office. It was a whirlwind with only thirteen days to hire a chief of staff, assemble a staff, find a place to live, catch up on policy matters and get to know my new fellow colleagues.

Serving in various capacities in the area I was born and raised, has provided me the pathway to meet and build relationships with Houston's diverse leadership, but more importantly, learn about and act on some of the challenges facing our community.

Neighborhoods, including the home where my grandchildren live, are in close proximity to chemical plants and concrete crushing facilities that threaten our air quality every day. Too many families are struggling with health care access and drug prescription costs.

Parts of the legislative district are going through gentrification and although gentrification has brought the community positive appearances, it hasn't contributed to improving our schools. Too many of our parents are still sending their children to schools in other neighborhoods and it is critical that that change.

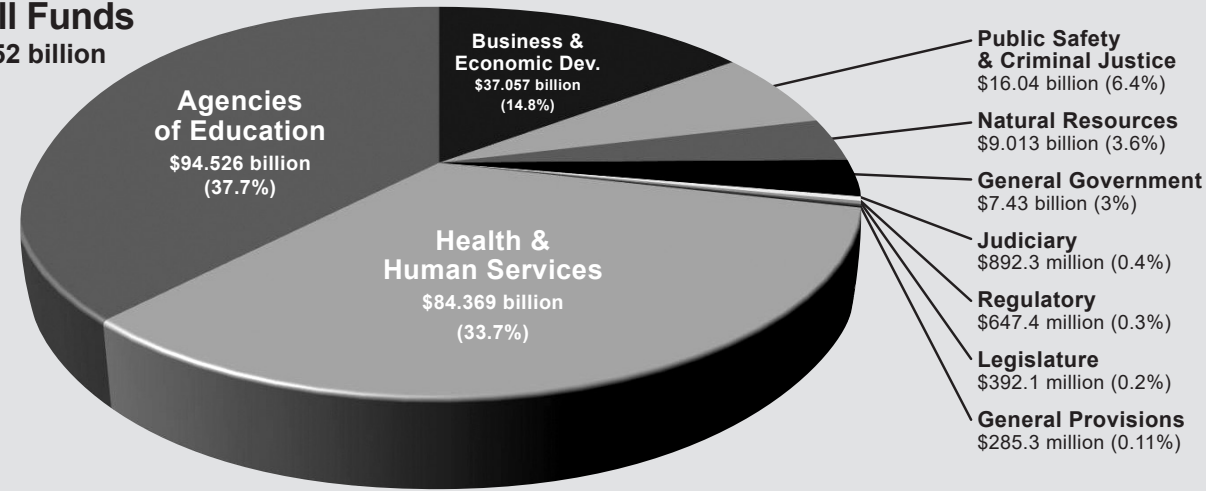
We focused on getting the State of Texas to pay their fair share of funding for public education, expanding access to healthcare for Texas families, Hurricane Harvey recovery, and fighting for better air quality. Humbling to be on the House Floor and support the historic House Bill 3 which addressed many of the chronic funding issues in our school finance system. The House also passed House Bill 1, the appropriation bill. We have been able to address some of the concerns regarding Hurricane Harvey recovery. Proud to have been apart of legislation dealing with air quality, providing healthcare for those that need it the most, and equality and safety for citizens of our State.

The experience is a lesson that our vote, voice, involvement and advocacy can and is making a difference. It is truly humbling and an honor to have the trust of House District 145.

Rep. Christina Morales

Texas House of Representatives
House District 145

2020-21 All Funds
Total: \$250.652 billion



Notes: (1) Amounts estimated or budgeted for the 2018–19 biennium include supplemental spending adjustments in Article II for Medicaid and foster care, but do not include adjustments from Senate Bill 500. (2) Contingent funding of \$11.5 billion for House Bill 3 has been moved from Article IX to Article III, Public Education, for the purposes of this comparison. (3) Excludes Interagency Contracts. (4) Biennial change and percentage change are calculated on actual amounts before rounding. Therefore, figure totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source: Legislative Budget Board

EDUCATION IMPROVEMENTS

- Reformed the broken school finance system by investing \$4.5 billion in education reforms, \$2 billion in dynamic pay raises for educators, and reducing recapture by 47%
- Funded a \$2,000 average 13th check for retired teachers and invested to make the pension actuarially sound
- Funded full-day pre-k for low-income students
- Reduced STAAR testing burdens on students and teachers
- Improved training for teachers and administrators to respond to safety threats and recognize the warning signs of human trafficking, child abuse, and mental health issues

SCHOOL SAFETY

- \$200 million for school safety improvements including building renovations, added security personnel and technology, emergency response training and more
- \$10.93 million to Santa Fe ISD for improvements in response to the school shooting

RETIRED TEACHERS

- \$589 million to TRS to provide retired teachers with a \$2,000 13th check on average
- \$524 million to make TRS stable and solvent
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TAXPAYER PROTECTIONS

- Provided \$5 billion in property tax relief
- Improved property tax notice requirements so taxpayers know in real time who is proposing to raise rates, by how much, and when and where they can go to make their voices heard
- Strengthened public hearing requirements in the property tax and Chapter 312 systems, along with oversight of local bond projects
- Empowered voters to authorize property tax increases above 3.5% for most taxing units
- Created a property tax exemption for those affected by a declared disaster and exempted active duty military from facing penalties for late property tax payments

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- Dedicated \$7.7 billion to mental health and substance abuse intervention
- Created the Texas Mental Health Consortium to foster partnerships between schools, colleges, and universities with mental health programs
- Established programs to place non-physician mental health professionals at education service centers and expand access to telehealth and child psychiatry networks
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HURRICANE HARVEY & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

- Over \$2 billion from the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF) for Hurricane Harvey relief and recovery
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DRIVER'S LICENSE PROGRAM

\$210 million for the driver's license program to reduce wait times, improve customer service, hire new employees, and add three additional driver's license offices

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HB 3009

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HB 3012

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HB 3404

Relating to the issuance of a permit for a concrete plant located in an area of a municipality not subject to zoning regulations. Unfortunately the bill never got a hearing. This issue is very important to me, and I intend to continue to fight for change

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Representative Morales at her desk on the House Floor



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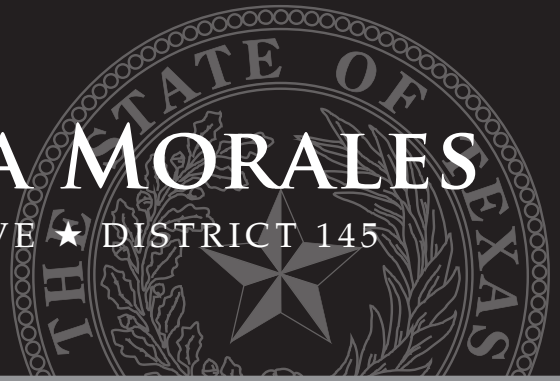
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CORRECTIONS AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

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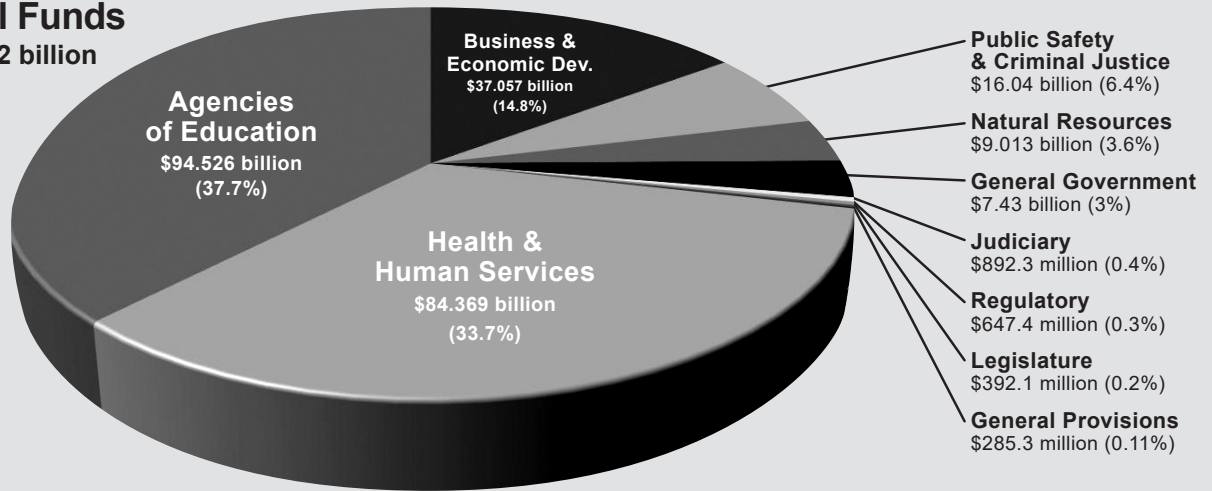
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