



"While the 83rd Legislative Session may appear to be winding down, the reality is that the tensions in the Capitol are close to a session high. Senators and Representatives are scrambling to ensure that their bills are considered and hoping for final passage. On a brighter note, we reveled in the passage of S.B. 24, which provides for a medical school in the Rio Grande Valley, and which should reach the Governor's desk in a matter of days. Thank you for your continued support, and I encourage you to ask us your questions about the Texas legislative process. Have a fantastic weekend, and may God bless you and your family!

Sergio Muñoz

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

SPOTLIGHT BILLS

- S.B. 1 - The Budget:** Both Chambers negotiated and finalized a budget deal between one another and Governor Rick Perry. Though the budget has completed the conference committee process, we will not know the details until a later date. But we believe it will include a restoration of over \$3 billion to the Foundation School Program, fund critical health & human services programs, provide for a long-awaited state water plan, and fund programs such as transportation infrastructure.
Status: Stay tuned for development over the weekend.
- S.B. 24/H.B. 1000 - Creation of the New University in the Valley:** The House finally passed S.B. 24, a bill that will combine UTPA & UTB into a new university and create a medical school in the Valley. The bill includes an amendment that will spread medical school education throughout the Valley's current and future medical institutions.
Status: S.B. 24 will now be sent to the Senate for concurrence, then to the Governor's desk for signature.

JOINT-AUTHORED

- H.B. 3761 - Border Agricultural Inspection Training Program:** Agents working for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Department of Agriculture are currently responsible for agricultural inspections at commercial points of entry. The lack of a sufficient number of these federal inspectors has caused exceptional congestion in the stream of commerce affecting the state. State employees may be able to help alleviate this issue by assisting the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Department of Agriculture at commercial points of entry. H.B. 3761 seeks to investigate ways of easing congestion in the stream of international commerce.
Status: H.B. 3761 passed the House on May 3 and awaits consideration by the Senate Agriculture, Rural Affairs & Homeland Security Committee.
- H.B. 2424 - The Purple Heart Trail:** The Purple Heart Trail is a system of roads, highways, bridges, and monuments intended to honor the great men and women who have been awarded one of the nation's oldest military medals: the Purple Heart Medal, which is awarded to service members wounded or killed in combat. H.B. 2424 amends current law relating to the designation of the part of U.S. Highway 83 Business in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties as a portion of the national Purple Heart Trail.
Status: H.B. 2424 passed the House on May 2 and was heard publically on May 17 by the Senate Transportation Committee.

CONSTITUENTS @ THE CAPITOL

(Below) For 17 years, the RGV Sector Border Patrol has administered an educational program titled "Head of the Class" to recognize high achieving students in the Valley. Among the recipients of the "Head of the Class" recognition, the Border Patrol recognizes three shining students who are recipients of a \$1,500 "Youth of the Year" scholarship. Two of the Youth of the Year scholarship recipients are in the photo below, along with Rep. Muñoz and Senator Lucio.



(Above) Rep. Muñoz' constituent and the RGV's beloved Tejano musician, Ramon Ayala, performed a free concert at the steps of the Capitol in the evening of Wednesday, May 15. The Mexican American Legislative Caucus (MALC) hosted the event, and Rep. Muñoz is a proud member of the Caucus.