



CAPITOL UPDATE

"This week at the Texas Capitol members were busy preparing for the fast-approaching deadline to file legislation. My staff is in the final stages of drafting a number of other bills that we plan on filing this legislative session. In addition, I filed key pieces of legislation, such as **HB 1887**, which creates a Regional Center for Public Safety Excellence in Hidalgo County and **HB 2030** that establishes a Border Security Advisory Council made up of representatives from local municipalities. Thank you for reading our newsletter this week; I hope you have great weekend! God Bless!"

COMMITTEE UPDATE

Members of the **Appropriations Subcommittee** for Articles VI, VII, & VIII rolled up their sleeves and meticulously reviewed each and every budget item request from their respective state agencies. My duty to the people of Texas and specifically, District 36, is to ensure that our state agencies receive their necessary funding while safeguarding against unnecessary spending.



On Wednesday, the **House Insurance Committee** held its first hearing of the session. In the next few months, this committee will tackle tough issues pertaining to the Texas Department of Insurance, the Texas Health Benefits Purchasing Cooperative, and the Office of Public Insurance Counsel.

LEGISLATION UPDATES

HB 1887 allows for South Texas College to create the Regional Center for Public Safety Excellence in Hidalgo County. According to Texas Workforce Commission data, demand for law enforcement related jobs will increase 21% between 2012 and 2021. A regional training facility, that services the entire Rio Grande Valley, would guarantee that our law enforcement officials are equipped with the latest training programs to keep our community safe.

This commission-approved training facility would allow local law enforcement agencies to be reimbursed for training costs incurred at the facility, ultimately reducing the strain on an agency's budget for these much needed trainings. In addition to specialized trainings, the Center would develop a program for aspiring law enforcement officers to earn an associate of applied science degree, a basic peace officer certification, or a bachelor's degree that will provide more career opportunities for our community.

HB 2030 looks to create a Border Security Advisory Council to keep state officials, state agencies, and local border cities in constant communication and give a voice to those most impacted by border security. The Council will develop performance standards and auditing methods to ensure that funds allocated for purposes related to border security are used properly and that the recipients of the funds are held accountable. "I believe it is important to bring local stakeholders to the table when discussing border security so that these issues are handled with the utmost regard to border citizens." - **Representative Muñoz**

The Council will consist of the executive head of each state agency receiving state funds for border security, a representative from at least three local municipalities receiving border security grants from the Department of Public Safety, and at least three mayors of local border cities, which state funds are designated for purposes related to border security.

CONSTITUENTS AT THE CAPITOL



(1.) Leadership Mission Class XXXII, pictured in the Capitol Extension Rotunda, made their biennial visit to the Texas Capitol on Monday, February 24th. (2.) On Tuesday **Representative Muñoz** recognized Dr. Juan Mejia for his 20 years of service to South Texas College with a House Resolution. (3.) Members of the Women's Business Center of Hidalgo County visited with **Representative Muñoz** to discuss their legislative agenda and inform him of their tremendous accomplishments.