



# SERGIO MUÑOZ JR

State Representative District 36

APRIL 30, 2015

CAPITOL NEWSLETTER

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I am pleased to inform you that our bills are progressing in the House and some are already on their way to the Senate. With only four weeks to go until this legislative session comes to an end, we have reached a critical time in the legislative process.

In the next four weeks, we can expect the House and Senate to agree on a budget, which will dictate the financial future of our state, and the passage of key pieces of legislation.

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. I hope you have a great weekend. God Bless!



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### **SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE REGIONAL CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EXCELLENCE PASSES HOUSE**

On Wednesday, April 29 the House passed HB 1887 by Rep. Muñoz, establishing a Regional Center for Public Safety Excellence, which will be administered by South Texas College in collaboration with the City of Pharr and other community partners.

With the creation of the Regional Center, South Texas College will expand its police academy and offer a bachelor's degree in law enforcement as well as TCOLE approved basic peace officer certifications.

HB 1887 is headed to the Senate where it will be assigned to a committee. Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa and Senator Eddie Lucio are spearheading the effort in the Senate.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE HEARS REP MUNOZ'S BILL REQUIRING WARNINGS FOR NITROUS OXIDE PRODUCTS**

HB 2748 was laid out before the House Public Health Committee on April 28. This bill seeks to increase awareness of the

hazardous use of nitrous oxide, also known as "whip-its", by requiring businesses that sell nitrous oxide to display a warning sign.

This bill was produced in collaboration with the City of Palmview Police Department in response to an increase in injuries resulting from the abuse of this inhalant.

### **OPTOMETRY BILL PASSES INSURANCE COMMITTEE**

On April 29, the House Insurance Committee passed HB 3550 by Rep. Muñoz out of committee. HB 3550 is a pro-business bill that allows optometrists to have more control of their businesses and seeks to prohibit vision plans from interfering with the doctor-patient relationship.

A vision plan is a single service health benefit plan that makes arrangements for its members to receive covered services from eye care providers to receive covered services from eye care providers.

Currently, vision plans may regulate what optical lab optometrists must use and what patient information optometrists must divulge, which may potentially create a privacy concern.

Removing such restrictions will greatly improve the quality of services that our local optometrists provide without them running the risk of being penalized by the vision plans.

### **SHARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PRESENTED WITH HOUSE RESOLUTION**

Karla Espinosa, a senior from Sharyland High School was presented with a House Resolution by Representative Muñoz and Representative Guerra on April 27 for her great achievement of being named a Distinguished Finalist in the 2015 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

This remarkable young lady helped raise \$73,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation through her "Driving for Wishes" Golf Classic.

