

sine die

CAPITOL NEWSLETTER

SERGIO 
MUÑOZ JR
State Representative District 36



85th Legislative Session | Sine Die Issue | June 12, 2017

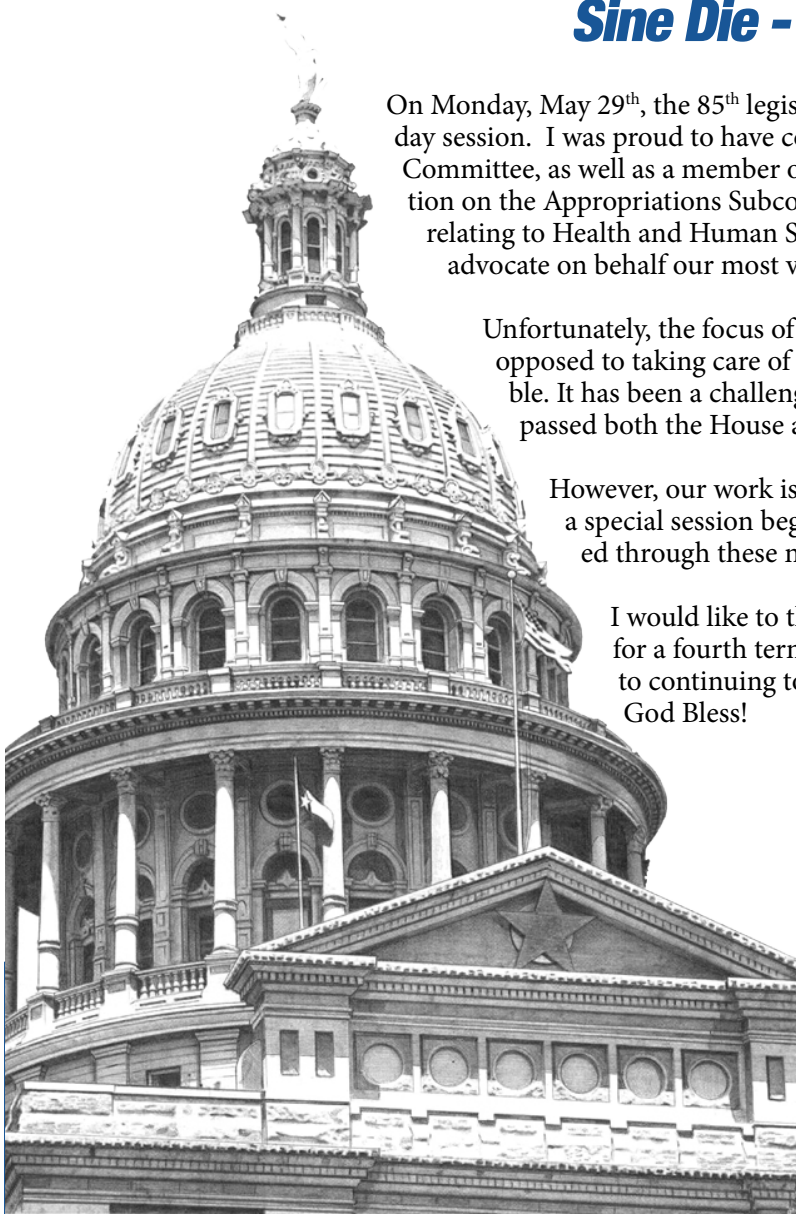


Sine Die

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Literally, "without day." The term is used to signify the final adjournment of a session of a legislative body. The body adjourns sine die when it adjourns without appointing a day on which to appear or assemble again.

Sine Die - 85th Legislative Session



On Monday, May 29th, the 85th legislative session came to an end after a contentious 140-day session. I was proud to have continued my role as Vice-Chair of the House Insurance Committee, as well as a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee. My position on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Article II, which deals with budget items relating to Health and Human Services, allowed me the opportunity to be a strong advocate on behalf our most vulnerable--our disabled children.

Unfortunately, the focus of this session was more on divisive social issues as opposed to taking care of the needs of our state, and those of our most vulnerable. It has been a challenging session overall, with only 12% of bills filed having passed both the House and Senate.

However, our work is not over. On Monday, June 6, Governor Abbott called a special session beginning on July 18th. I will continue to keep you updated through these newsletters and our social media platforms.

I would like to thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving you for a fourth term in the Texas House of Representatives. I look forward to continuing to serve the great people of District 36. Thank you and God Bless!

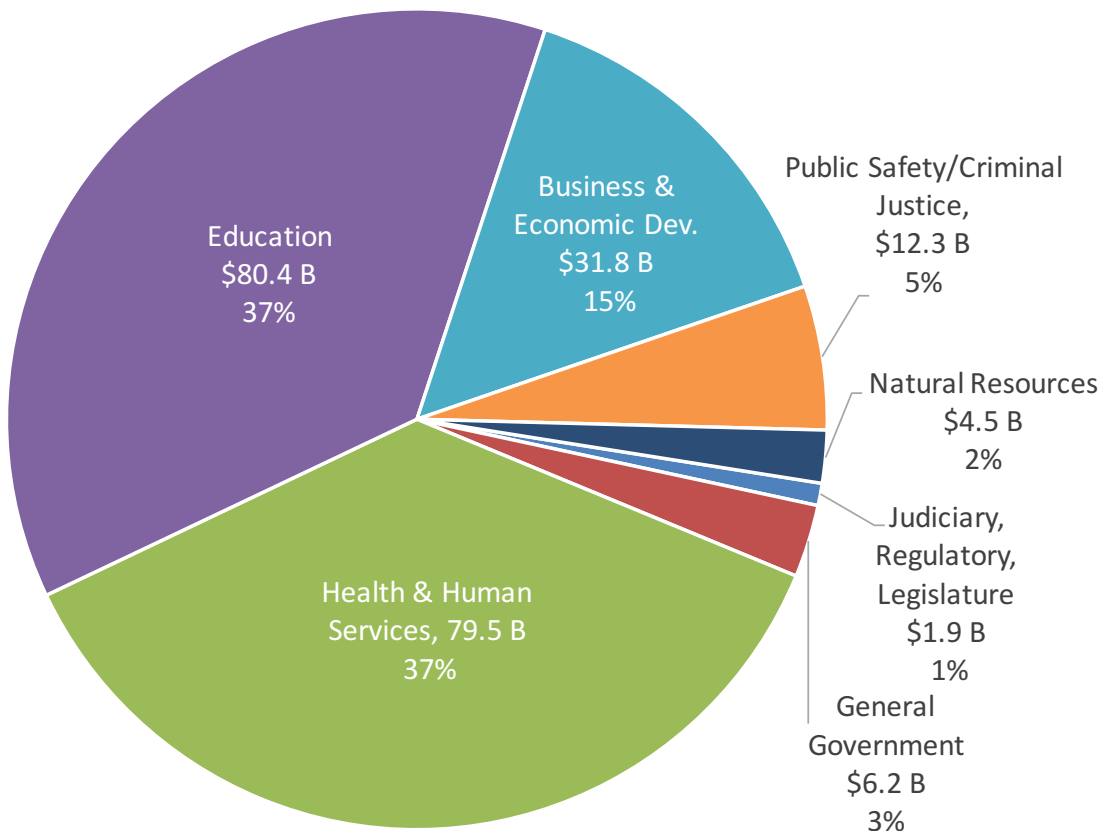


Sergio M. Morán

Rep. Munoz Votes “Nay” on Budget

Only 14 Representatives voted against S.B. 1, the state’s \$217 billion budget bill, and I am proud to have been one of them. There are major cuts happening, and Texas’ most vulnerable deserve much more.

2018-2019 State Budget



I strongly voted not to concur on the conference committee report for Senate Bill 1, the state’s budget bill. The Conference Committee Report we voted on today was very different than the budget the House passed in April. The Conference Committee Report spent almost \$1.4 billion less than what we originally appropriated.

Further funding losses and reductions are outlined below:

- Health & Human Services loses \$2.4 billion
- Public schools will lose over \$1 billion
- Civic Legal Services loses \$5.7 million
- No significant changes to address the rising health care expenditures shouldered by our retired teachers were taken
- The failure of HB 21, an effort to change our school finance system, further reduces public education funding by \$1.6 billion
- Acute therapy services only received a 25% restoration in the cuts made during the 84th Legislative Session

Although the budget allocates funds towards mental and behavioral health, Child Protective Services, water development and conservation, and historical preservation, I cannot in good conscience support the cuts in funding to other necessary state programs; especially, when we are leaving well over \$11 billion dollars in the “Rainy Day” Fund. We can no longer afford to keep kicking the can down the road and worrying about the next election cycle or next legislative session. The people of Texas expect us to fix the most pressing issues our families face on a daily basis. When are we going to put people before politics? Barely providing funds to the most vulnerable and then allocating several million dollars towards pet projects, is a disgrace to families dependent on acute therapy care for their child. It is NOT acceptable to tell our children that this is the best that we can do.

Legislation Championed by



HB 293

Extends current statute to allow for the prosecution of online sales that distribute synthetic substances. By curbing the accessibility of synthetic drugs from both physical business establishments and online, the prevalence in the abuse of synthetic substances can be drastically deterred.



HB 2703

creates transparency by making an explanation of the reasons the court dispensed with the issuance of a bond mandatory. The court must issue written findings of fact and conclusions of law in support of the receiver's appointment. HB 2703 basically serves to clarify why each party is to pay a specific amount for the protection of their property.

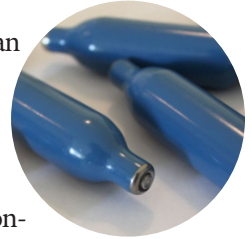


HB 1398

improves the delivery time in which healthcare providers would be reimbursed for the services provided to Medicaid patients. The process and payment of claims for reimbursement to providers under the Medicaid program would be drastically improved.

HB 296

Currently, nitrous oxide or "whip-its" can be purchased in various smoke shops and lack preventative measures to deter abuse. HB 296 will prohibit businesses from mislabeling or promoting nitrous oxide in a manner that could deceive consumers from its intended purpose.



HB 2492

amends the Insurance Code so that an insurer must adopt adequate standards concerning network contracted physicians and health care providers. Furthermore, this will ensure that insurers provide availability and accessibility of contracted physicians and health care providers within a preferred provider facility.



HB 1768

Amends the Government Code to instruct the Health and Human Services Commission to streamline and clarify the provision of care coordination benefits across Medicaid programs and services for recipients receiving benefits under a managed care delivery model



Representative Sergio Muñoz, Jr.

HB 2375



HB 2375 creates provisions to track savings in unexpended Medicaid costs. Moreover, the bill gives oversight of these savings to the Legislature. HB 2375 basically allows for a report to track any Medicaid savings to create transparency in Medicaid savings.

HB 2905



Requires that reimbursement rates for occupational, physical, and speech therapy services are at least equal to the reimbursement rates from August 31, 2015, essentially reversing the therapy rate cuts that were enacted during the 84th legislative session.

HB 3596



HB 3596 addresses deficiencies that exist with the HHSC audit coverage of Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) by requiring HHSC to implement a strategy for improving overall management of audit resources used to verify the accuracy of program and financial information reported by MCOs.

HB 1030



HB 1030 will eliminate the uncertainty of named driver policy, named driver exclusion, household, and operator's policy. The bill will also lay out specific restrictions under named driver policies to ensure compliance with Chapter 601 of the Transportation Code.

HB 2902



HB 2902 authorizes the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to allow South Texas College to offer baccalaureate degree programs in the field of nursing.

HB 2810



HB 2810 would allow for overtime pay to be included in the computation of benefits in the Employee Retirement System of Texas.



Thank You,

#TEAMSERGIO INTERNS!



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