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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 47

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The 86th Legislative Session has come to a close! After 140 days of meetings, committee hearings, floor debates, and hundreds of votes, I am proud to report that we sent five bills to the Governor's desk during my first legislative session. Record turnout in the 2018 election sent an important message to everyone at the Capitol—voters wanted legislators to get to work to pass meaningful and powerful public policy. In the last weeks of the session, the legislature passed monumental school finance reform and finally passed the state's budget.

It's been my honor to serve House District 47 this session. As we enter the interim, I look forward to continuing to meet with groups across the district to learn about important issues to constituents. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

School Finance and Property Tax Reform

I came to the Capitol to advocate for our public schools. Lawmakers worked hard this session to pass HB 3, which I was proud to sign on to as a co-author. The bill increases per-student funding by over \$1,000, guarantees pay raises for teachers and all school employees, funds full-day Pre-K for eligible four-year-olds, and enables property tax reform by compressing property tax rates and increasing the state's share of school funding from 38% to 45%. As a result, all school districts in HD 47 will see a decrease in their Robin Hood recapture payments, allowing more local tax dollars to stay local.

HB 3 was a major bi-partisan effort that will benefit students across the state, but there is more work to be done to ensure that these funding sources are sustainable for years to come.

Education

Along with school finance reform, the legislature took important steps to improve education and



reduce high-stakes testing for Texas students. We passed legislation to ensure students have more mental health resources and teachers and staff have training on how to respond in emergency situations.

Passing with a near-unanimous vote, SB 12 makes the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) stable and solvent, ensures healthcare premiums do not increase, and gives retired teachers a one-time "13th check" of up to \$2,000. Lastly, I was proud to author a bill to ensure that every student in Texas graduates with knowledge

in personal financial literacy. The bill didn't quite make it to the finish line, but I look forward to continuing to advocate for education initiatives that will help young Texans become well-rounded, informed citizens.

My Authored Bills

This session, we sent five bills to the Governor's desk that will benefit constituents throughout HD 47:

- HB 2650 creates more efficiency for county governments to conduct online auctions. I was happy to carry this bill to support Travis County and their operations.
- HB 4671 provides the Ranch at Cypress Creek MUD with the ability to appoint an architectural committee and gives road maintenance authority.
- HB 4691 creates a Municipal Utility District in the city of Lago Vista.
- SB 669 will allow the Southwestern Travis County Groundwater Conservation District to hold a confirmation election this upcoming November to conserve, manage, and protect groundwater resources in the district.
- SB 1468 ensures that the Shady Hollow neighborhood can remain whole – either inside or outside the city.

Legislative Highlights

I'm happy to report that HB 672—the "Beer To-Go" bill that I co-authored—passed as an amendment on the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission Sunset bill. Now, Texans will be able to purchase the beer they enjoy directly from local craft brewers (many of whom are in HD 47!) to consume at home.

I also signed on to HB 3745, which will help the TERP (Texas Emissions Reduction Program) Fund be utilized for its original purpose, rather than to balance the state budget.

HB 316 was an important bill for me to joint-author. The bill instructs DPS to create and implement a public awareness campaign to address suicide prevention and safe storage of firearms. The bill didn't pass, but money was allocated in the state budget for this purpose. I look forward to seeing the campaign when it is released.