

Dear Friends,

Another week is behind us and I'm happy to report it's been a productive one, including the passage of multiple bills safeguarding the Texas Miracle and setting our state on a path to an even brighter future ahead. Here's the rundown...

THE BIENNIAL STATE BUDGET

Last night, after over 10 hours of floor debate and nearly 240 amendments, I was proud to join a unanimous Texas House in voting for the passage of our biennial state budget. The total two-year budget, totaling nearly \$245 billion, is fiscally conservative while fully funding the priorities and core competencies of our state government. After working for many months with my legislative colleagues to craft the budget, I'm happy to report that I kept the promises I made to you, the citizens I am elected to serve and advocate for.

We fully funded public education. We strengthened public safety, including over \$800 for border security. We invested in healthcare, including over \$1 billion to community mental health programs for adults, children and crisis services. We invested smartly in our infrastructure. We fully funded the state's "Alternative to Abortion" program, meeting women and their families at the point of their need with necessary resources and services.

And we did all of this - and much more - without raising taxes or fees on hardworking Texans - just like we promised we'd do. At this point, the House and Senate will confer on the differences between our two budgets and work diligently in the remaining days of session to get a smart, conservative, bold budget to the Governor's desk by the time session adjourns in late May.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

STATE PARKS FOR OUR HEROES: I'm happy to report that HB 1341 - which will provide free entry to Texas State Parks for active military, veterans, law enforcement and first responders - passed UNANIMOUSLY in the Texas House yesterday. This isn't just about not having to pay a fee, this is about giving our veterans and first responders access to the therapeutic qualities our state parks can offer them. Thank you to all of our state's heroes - especially to my dear

friend Matt Foster who deserves credit for this great idea - for all you do to keep us safe, secure and free.

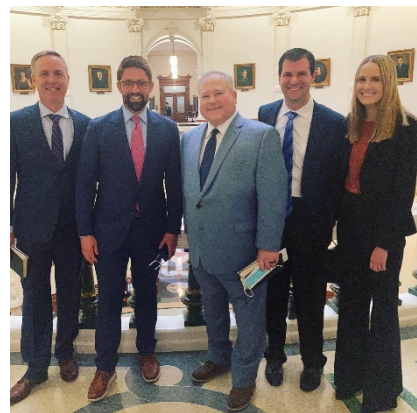
LOOKING AHEAD: In the next 7-10 days we can expect to hear a number of important bills including many bills that I have authored. This includes my legislation protecting our businesses, healthcare institutions, churches and non-profits, schools and others from frivolous lawsuits relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as House Bill 19, my legislation cracking down on commercial vehicle lawsuit abuse while at the same time providing a fair, reliable framework for injured Texans to be able to have their day in court to seek justice. We'll also take up and consider many bills on education, healthcare, our fundamental liberties and freedoms and public safety.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

My office is now accepting applications for the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP), an educational scholarship opportunity for a deserving Texas student aspiring to serve through military service. Additional details outlining the TASSP application process and requirements may be found [here](#).

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT!

I was thrilled to see members of the Republican Club at Heritage Ranch as well as my friends from Toyota at the Capitol this week. I was also blessed to be able to step off the House floor and be prayed over by pastors from Prestonwood. It's always a bright light in my week to see my friends from back home while in Austin!



Have a great weekend friends!

All My Best,



Jeff Leach

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