



Dear Friends,

With the end of session around the corner, we have spent many late nights and early mornings on the House floor. There's too many bills that have passed to tell you about all of them, but I'm happy to highlight some important ones below.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

TEXAS ESSENTIAL CHURCH ACT: Tuesday evening, the Texas House overwhelmingly passed SJR 72, a resolution I authored with Senator Kelly Hancock, amending the Texas Constitution to prohibit any government official from ever closing our churches or houses of worship. Religious services in Texas were designated as essential throughout the COVID-19 crisis. However, in some instances, political subdivisions attempted to force parishes and places of worship to shut down or placed such severe restrictions on religious gatherings that they were effectively banned. This amendment will be offered in a statewide proposition election this November to be voted on by the people of Texas.



LAUREN AND CJ'S LAW: In 2015, Lauren and CJ Davis were out celebrating CJ's 26th birthday, a date night out with tickets to the Maverick's game. While crossing the street on the way to the game, a drunk driver struck and killed them both. It took three and a half years before any sentence would be delivered and in the end, the man, who had previous DWIs, who was

responsible for the deaths of two bright, promising, young people, would serve only 4 months behind bars and a probation sentence.

House Bill 3598 seeks prevent injustices such as theirs by mandating that intoxication manslaughter carry a minimum of 5 years imprisonment. Judicial discretion is still maintained, allowing judges to reduce the sentence if the judge finds it is in the best interest of the community and that the public would not be harmed by the reduction--however, the bill also requires that the judge enter that finding in the record.

Yesterday the Texas House overwhelmingly passed HB 3598 – now named Lauren & CJ’s Law.

PANDEMIC DISASTER RESPONSE: This past Monday, after hours of deliberation, the House passed House Bill 3, the Pandemic Disaster Response. If there’s anything we’ve learned in the last year it’s that there isn’t a guidebook for how to navigate through a pandemic. House Bill 3 provides a blueprint for how to respond to future pandemic disasters like COVID-19 by clarifying emergency management powers and limitations. You can read in detail what HB 3 accomplishes [here](#), but in short it protects Texans from government overreach and safeguards our businesses and economy.

In addition, I was able to work with the bill author and my colleagues to add an amendment to the legislation ensuring that our beautiful state parks remain open during a pandemic – after all, this beautiful state is the peoples’ – not the politicians – and it’s yours to enjoy without undue government interference.

SENATE BILL 766: Wednesday I was able to lay out Senate Bill 766, which I sponsored with Senator Joan Huffman, to the House committee on Licensing and Administration. Sexually oriented businesses, including strip clubs, are epicenters for human trafficking, including the exploitation of minors. SB 766 requires these businesses to utilize E-verify to confirm the age of their applicants and employees. Doing so will aid in our continued efforts to crack down on those who prey on young women in Texas for their own pleasure and profit. I appreciate the two witnesses who survived and escaped the horrors of the industry and bravely offered their testimony to the Committee and I look forward to hearing this bill on the House floor.

LIVE FROM AUSTIN! TELE-TOWN HALL THIS TUESDAY!

Mark your calendar for this Tuesday, May 18th at 7pm as I give you the latest update on the 87th Legislative session and answer YOUR questions. Check out my Facebook page on Tuesday evening to get the call-in number and all the details. Hope you will join us!



REALTORS IN THE HOUSE!

What a blessing and a joy to welcome the president of the Collin County Association of Realtors to the Texas House – who also happens to be my dad! Realtors know the importance of private property rights and homeownership and do a great job advocating for their clients. It was great to see them in Austin!



NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

This week we get to celebrate and honor all of the men and women in law enforcement who so bravely answer the call to serve and protect and daily put the lives on the line for all Texans. And we're reminded of that sacrifice this week after two Concho County officers were gunned down and murdered. I'm thankful to Governor Abbott for his leadership in backing the blue and lighting up the Governor's mansion in their honor.



God bless you, and God bless Texas!

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Leach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Leach

District Office
550 S. Watters Road
Suite 280
Allen, TX 75013
(972) 908-3358 Phone

Capitol Office
Room GN.9
P.O. Box 2910

Austin, TX 78768
(512) 463-0544 Phone

The Texas House of Representatives is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment of the provisions of services. In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, if you require reasonable accommodations during the application process, please call (512) 463-0865.