

Dear Friends,

We celebrated our 100th day of the 88th Legislative session this week. Less than 40 days to go. And while much has been accomplished already, our work is far from over and I'm working hard to get our conservative priorities over the finish line.

This week I passed two bills on the House floor both related to criminal justice reform. [HB 1736](#) simply states that in order to impose the death penalty, the jury must find that the co-conspirator intentionally killed the victim or intended to kill the victim. Capital punishment should be utilized only when there is absolute confidence in the crime and the perpetrator. Under the existing law of parties, we can't do that and it's time for us to make this change.

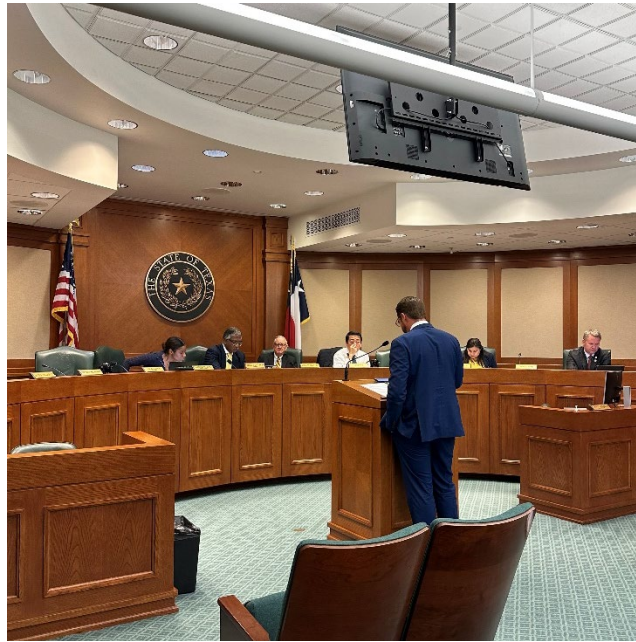
[House Bill 1743](#) will go a long way to help reduce recidivism. This bill will allow inmates who have been given a release date, to submit an application for SNAP benefits so that by the time they are released, the benefits would be available for them to use. This bill will NOT expand the eligibility of SNAP benefits nor does it create automatic enrollment. It simply allows those who already qualify to apply earlier therefore giving them the opportunity to focus on finding a job and reuniting with their family knowing that their basic needs will be met.

CONSERVATIVE BILLS ON THE MOVE

I was proud to co-author and vote for [House Bill 900](#) by my friend and colleague, Representative Patterson, this week. The READER Act, which passed the Texas House with bi-partisan support, will keep sexually explicit books out of school libraries through new book rating standards and hold book vendors accountable for selling inappropriate books to schools. This bill excludes classic literature and empowers parents to give consent for their children to access sexually relevant material. Click on the bill link above to learn more.

This week I laid out [House Bill 2658](#) in the committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues. Like many important bills, this one came to us from a constituent. Her, now ex, husband had been

indicted on charges of online solicitation of a minor, sexual conduct. After digging into the family code, we found out that under current law, a conviction for criminal solicitation is grounds for the termination of parental rights – however - solicitation of a minor and online solicitation of a minor are not currently listed. House Bill 2658 seeks to address this gap in the law by adding both a conviction for solicitation of a minor and online solicitation of a minor to statute as grounds for the termination of parental rights. We need to protect children at all levels and this bill will help do just that.



We expect that over the next couple of weeks, the House will hear important bills on banning gender modification, school safety and security, and election integrity. I look forward to working with my colleagues to keep these bills moving in the right direction.

THIS WEEK AT THE TEXAS HOUSE

I had a great zoom meeting with constituents from back home where I was able to give them an update of the legislative session and where we're headed, as well as hear straight from them any questions and concerns they might have. It was a very productive meeting!



EARLY VOTING FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS BEGINS MONDAY

There are many important local elections coming up and early voting begins this Monday, April 24th. You can find early voting locations and times at [this link](#). Get out and vote, and make your voice heard!



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Floor Schedule:

- Monday: Convene at 11am
- Tuesday: Convene at 10am
- Wednesday: Convene at 10am

- Thursday: Convene at 10am
- Friday: Convene at 9am

Rep Leach Bills on the House Floor

[HB 3504](#) – 4/24

[HB 2014](#) – 4/26

[HB 3156](#) – 4/26

All My Best,

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

Jeff Leach

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