



Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you and your family doing well. I can't believe March is around the corner and the Capitol has been busier than ever. This past week, we saw many bills being referred to committees and committees beginning to meet. The Criminal Jurisprudence Committee which I serve on, had their first meeting this past Tuesday and the committee I chair, Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence will be meeting for the first time next week on March 1st.

COMMITTEES – WHAT THEY DO AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED

After a bill is introduced on the House floor, the Speaker's office then refers those bills to specific committees and a hearing will be scheduled. This is where YOU can get involved. It is invaluable to have constituents, advocates and experts testify on bills in front of the committee members. This is where the Members are able to ask questions and get clarity on how bills might effect Texans. I encourage you to get involved on bills that are important to you by either testifying in person or following along online. Here are some quick tips and tricks on testifying in front of a House committee.

- Bring at least 20 copies of your testimony
- Write out remarks and come prepared
- Be concise – there is often a time limit
- Provide a unique perspective – try not to repeat what others have said before you
- Be respectful and avoid using combative language – this will help your case

As always, my Capitol office staff is ready and available to help you and answer any questions you might have on testifying. If you aren't able to head to the Capitol to testify but still want to stay up-to-date and informed, you can watch all committee hearings [live through this link](#).

THIS WEEK AT THE TEXAS CAPITOL

It was my pleasure to honor Hayden and celebrate his 14th birthday on the House floor this week. Hayden is the Protect Texas Fragile Kids Capitol Ambassador and is an inspiration to everyone he meets. I hope you had an awesome birthday Hayden!



I also had a chance to sit down with Brian Phillips at the Texas Public Policy Foundation to discuss some of the important legislation coming up this session. We talked thoroughly about my bill, House Bill 1738 – also known as the “Golden Parachutes” bill. Essentially HB 1738 would protect taxpayers' hard-earned wages by capping public employee severance packages, known as "golden parachutes", at 20 weeks of their prior salary. Additionally, the bill mandates the elimination of severance pay when public officials, as well as those who have contracts with political subdivisions, are terminated due to misconduct. I'll be sure to share the full podcast once it is released!



I was happy to be able to meet with the leaders of Frisco ISD to discuss their legislative priorities and I look forward to working together to strengthen public education and support our active and retired teachers.



I also had a chance to sit down with the Dallas Regional Chamber and their business leaders to discuss the issues that are most important to them. We talked in depth about criminal justice reform and how investments in public safety technology, law enforcement and re-entry programs can greatly improve their community and Texas as a whole.



I hope you and your family have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing you at the Texas Capitol soon!

All My Best,

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