



Lalani's Legislative Letter

Interim Edition #11

Greetings!

Ramadan Kareem! As we observe the holy month, let us pray, reflect, and come together as a community. My office will be hosting our 2nd Annual Interfaith Community Iftar on April 6, 2024. It will an opportunity to share our traditions as a community right here in House District 76. I look forward to seeing you all!

TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES



Dr. Suleman Lalani

State Representative, District 76

invites you to join us for the 2nd annual

**TEXAS STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 76
ONE-TABLE INTERFAITH
COMMUNITY IFTAR**

Saturday, April 6th, 2024

Maryam Islamic Center
504 Sartartia Rd, Sugar Land, TX 77479

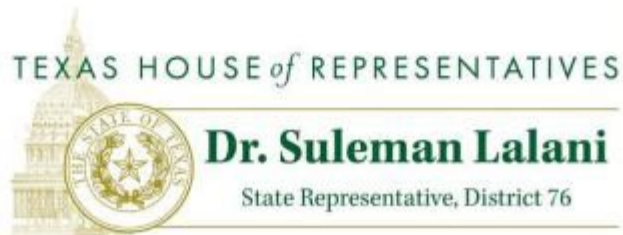
6:30pm Arrival & tour of the mosque
7:30pm Welcome & opening remarks
7:44pm Opening of fast – Iftar Dinner

Regardless of your religious beliefs, I hope you are able to spend some time this month reflecting on the gifts that you have been given.

May peace and prosperity spread across the globe.



RAMADAN
Mubarak
To You and your Family!



Remember this is your District. You are the most important part of what happens here. Come and see it, get involved, make your voice heard.

Blessings,

Representative Suleman Lalani, M.D.

What exactly happened to education during the Legislative session?

Halfway through the academic year and Texas schools are no better off than they were two years ago.

Heading into the 88th Legislative session in January 2023, the state was sitting on a [nearly \\$33 billion surplus](#), which should have been used to fully address the financial inadequacies in our education system. After a full 140-day session and four special called sessions, I am sad to report that we could have done so much more for Texas teachers and students. So, what happened?

State budget riders intended to allocate \$5 billion for:

- Increasing funding for public schools by updating allotments in the school finance system to account for the inflation since they were last updated; and
- Providing educators and school employees with raises.

What we got out of the regular session:

\$6.3 billion more in the state budget for public education than in 2022-23

Of that \$6.3 billion, \$5 billion gave much needed funding to our retired teachers through the TRS, in the form of 13th month checks and the first cost-of-living increase to their monthly pension benefits since 2004. Only the remaining allocated funding went towards school districts or charter schools.

\$500 million for curriculum reforms

These funds would go towards [“enhance student performance, minimize inappropriate and ideological content, improve quality of classroom instructional materials, help ease teachers’ workloads, and ensure curriculum transparency for parents.”](#) However, public school advocates claim that the reforms being funded are not new reforms.

School Safety: \$1.64 billion

This includes \$300 million to help fund the mandate of HB 3 to have an armed person on each school campus (the balance of which must be covered by school districts). It also includes \$1 billion for one-time infrastructure grants to school districts.

Actual investment in school districts and charter schools

There was no increase in the Basic Allotment, which was set in 2019 and remains at \$6,160 per child. If the current allotment considered [2023 inflation](#) amounts the number per student should be at a minimum of \$7,500.

The 2024-2025 Appropriations bill provided zero money for teacher pay raises. There was \$4 billion set aside for pay raises that was tied to the passage of voucher legislation, but when that legislation died during the 4th Special Called Session, so did pay raises.

Lalani Legislative Recap

88th Legislative Session by the Numbers

- 2 riders on the state budget
- 46 individual pieces of legislation authored
- 97 additional pieces of legislation joint authored, co-authored, sponsored or co-sponsored
- 143 pieces of legislation that navigated through the 88th Legislature had the Lalani name on them
- 36 pieces of legislation sent to the Governor for signature
- 36 pieces signed by the Governor with effective dates
- 0 vetoes









TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES



Dr. Suleman Lalani

State Representative, District 76

<p>“ One of the key reasons that I ran for public office is the lack of affordable prescriptions for my patients. More times than not, I would see my patients ration their medications because they are simply too expensive on fixed incomes. I joint authored HB 755 which would prohibit a health plan provider from requiring more than one prior authorization per year for some drugs that are used to treat an autoimmune disease, hemophilia or Von Willebrand disease. It doesn't solve the problem of expensive medications, but it does help to lower the cost burden of obtaining prescriptions for those medications.</p>		<p>“ Part of women's health care is comprehensive family planning tools for women. This includes access to contraceptive drugs which aid women to manage, with their physicians, their own reproductive health.</p> <p>This is why as a physician I joined as a co-author to HB 916, which requires health benefit plans providing prescription contraceptive coverage, including Medicaid and CHIP Coverage programs to a 3-month supply of medication at one time if they are first time users, or a 12-month supply at once for those who have previously had the drug.</p>	
<p>HB 755</p> <p>TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES</p>  <p>Dr. Suleman Lalani State Representative, District 76</p>	<p>Effective 9/1/2023</p>	<p>HB 916</p> <p>TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES</p>  <p>Dr. Suleman Lalani State Representative, District 76</p>	<p>Effective 9/1/2023</p>
<p>“ I have been involved in child crisis organizations in Fort Bend County for years and for me, HB 968 just made sense.</p> <p>Children who are at risk of being removed from their homes of origin due to an accusation of child abuse or neglect in the home, need to be shown as much kindness as we can show.</p> <p>This legislation allows for courts to take into consideration the ability for children to remain in their own homes and have the accused voluntarily remove themselves from the premises. As long as the home remains a safe place, this gives children the ability to remain in familiar surroundings, with a support system around them. This allows for faster recovery from trauma and potential reunification of families.</p>		<p>“ As a part of the Fort Bend County delegation, I represent the most diverse district in Texas. Our diversity is our strength and no one should feel less than equal to those around them - especially school children.</p> <p>I joint authored HB 1212 which would ensure student absences due to observance of a religious holy day were treated equally by school districts across the state by prohibiting a school district from requiring a note from a clergy member or other religious leader to excuse a student absence related to the observance of a religious holy day. The school district would be required to accept a note from the student's parent or person standing in parental relation verifying the student's absence was related to observance of a religious holy day.</p>	
<p>HB 968</p> <p>TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES</p>  <p>Dr. Suleman Lalani State Representative, District 76</p>	<p>Effective 9/1/2023</p>	<p>HB 1212</p> <p>TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES</p>  <p>Dr. Suleman Lalani State Representative, District 76</p>	<p>Effective Immediately</p>

If you want to read about any of my legislation, please go to my House [website](#).

****If this or any other legislation, issue or policy interests you, please get engaged! If you need ideas on how to get engaged, please contact us at District76.Lalani@house.texas.gov. We can help!***

The Job Link*

This section is intended to give HD 76 access to employment opportunities.

Spring Into Your New Career Job Fair

Workforce Solutions Missouri City will be hosting an in-person job fair on March 28th, 2024. Register [here](#) to attend.

Multiple Employers will be present and conducting interviews on the spot. Dress to Impress and bring multiple copies of your resume!

Thursday, March 28, 2024, 10am-1pm

Workforce Solutions - Missouri City
3823 Cartwright Rd., Missouri City, TX 77459

For more information, contact:

Joy White - email: Joyshayla.white@wrksolutions.com

****If you are an employer and want to share hiring information, please reach out to our office at District76.Lalani@house.texas.gov and use the subject line "District Employment Opportunity" and we will share it in our newsletter.***

Out and About in HD 76





**Fort Bend Exchange
Club Spaghetti Dinner**

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Dr. Suleman Lalani

State Representative, District 76



How to Reach Us

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