

DISTRICT
76

Legislative Update

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we welcome a new year and prepare for the upcoming legislative session, I extend my warmest wishes for a healthy and fulfilling year ahead. This past year brought unique challenges for our country and communities, yet through it all, your resilience and commitment to progress have shone brightly. I deeply appreciate your continued trust in me to serve as the representative for Texas House District 76.

Your unwavering support and dedication to our shared vision inspire my commitment to advocate tirelessly on your behalf in Austin. Over the past year, I have had the privilege of connecting with many of you—listening to your stories, understanding your challenges, and witnessing firsthand the aspirations that define our diverse and resilient community.

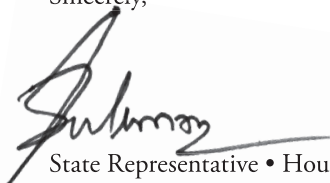
As you receive this correspondence, the 89th Legislative Session is already underway. This newsletter provides a recap of our accomplishments during the 88th Legislative Session and offers a preview of the priorities we will address in the months ahead. It also includes updates on recent events and community gatherings. We are introducing a series of bills to address some of the most pressing issues facing our community. From expanding Medicaid options and implementing safer firearm policies to ensuring the well-being of seniors and enhancing environmental protections, these proposals aim to directly improve the quality of life for our constituents. Furthermore, we are awaiting final committee assignments, which will shape our legislative efforts and create new opportunities to advocate for the needs of District 76.

In the months ahead, we will continue to champion initiatives that strengthen our healthcare system, support our schools, and promote safe, vibrant neighborhoods. Your voices will play a crucial role in shaping this work, and I encourage you to reach out with your insights, concerns, and ideas. Together, we can ensure that the needs of District 76 are heard loud and clear in Austin.

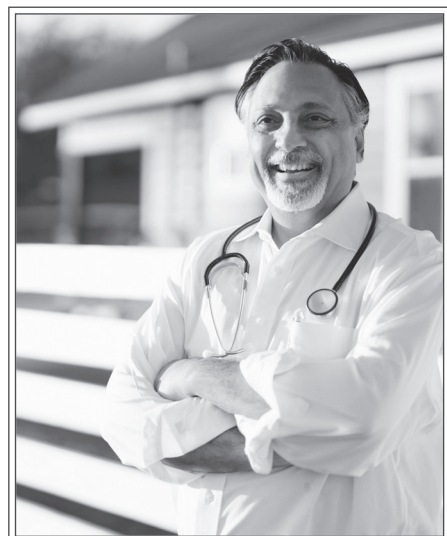
Please remember, this is your government, and your involvement is vital. I invite you to stay engaged with our office and make your voice heard on the issues that matter to you.

Let's continue working side by side to make District 76 a model of progress and unity for all Texans. I remain committed to being a responsive and dedicated voice for our community. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if our office can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



State Representative • House District 76



88TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECAP

Through dedication and collaboration, we delivered legislative priorities in healthcare, education, technology, mental health, senior care, and animal welfare. These accomplishments reflect our shared commitment to building a better future for all Texans.

Healthcare Improvements

Healthcare was a key priority this session. I was able to include several state budget riders in HB 1, including the Strategic National Stockpile for Health Emergency Preparedness, enabling federal funds to build a medical supply stockpile and prepare Texas for public health crises. Additionally, the Family Practice Residency Program Budget Rider allocated an additional \$5 million biennially to retain Texas-trained physicians, addressing critical shortages.

The Postpartum Medicaid Expansion, HB 12, extended Medicaid coverage for new mothers from two to 12 months, ensuring vital medical and mental health support. The Importation of Prescription Drugs from Canada, HB 25, reduced medication costs, enhancing affordability. Other highlights include the Next Generation 9-1-1 Telemedicine Project, HB 617, which enhances emergency care in rural areas, and HB 916, which ensures Medicaid users receive a year's supply of contraception in one prescription. SB 840 increased penalties for assaults on hospital personnel, while SB 989 expanded biomarker testing coverage, improving diagnosis and treatment for complex diseases.

Educational Advancements

Significant advancements were made in education. The Community College Finance Bill, HB 8, improved transparency and affordability. HB 1212 and HB 1883 ensured religious observances are accommodated in academic schedules. Competency-based education gained momentum through HB 4005, which allows students to earn credit for real-world experience, while HB 4363 offered scholarships for future educators in critical shortage areas.

School safety was addressed with SB 838, known as Alyssa's Law, mandating panic alert systems in classrooms. Additionally, SB 294 expanded access to lifesaving respiratory medications for students.

Mental Health Initiatives

Mental health remained a top priority. The Behavioral Health Innovation Grant Program, SB 26, expanded mental health bed capacity and improved care provided by local authorities. The Mental Health Loan Repayment Assistance Program, SB 532, reduced service obligations for mental health professionals, encouraging them to remain in Texas. This legislation also requires campus tours to include a visit to mental health clinics, expanding access to resources.

Technology and Infrastructure

This session propelled Texas to the forefront of technological innovation. The Texas Data Privacy and Security Act, HB 4, strengthened personal data protections, ensuring businesses meet high security standards. Broadband access expanded through HB 9 and SB 1238, connecting millions of Texans. HB 2060 created the AI Advisory Council, overseeing the ethical development of artificial intelligence, while SB 768 required timely notifications for data breaches, enhancing consumer protection.

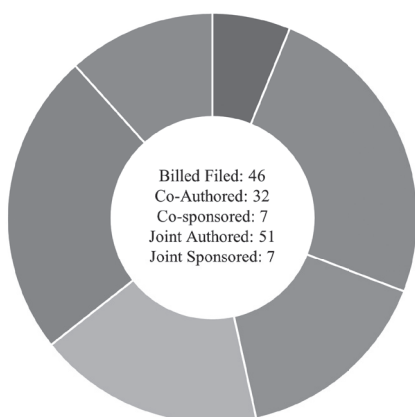
Support for Seniors

Significant advancements improved the quality of life for seniors. HB 54 increased the personal needs allowance for long-term care residents. HB 568 mandated Alzheimer's training for peace officers, improving community safety and understanding. HB 1275 simplified driver's license renewals for seniors with mobility limitations, while HB 1673 introduced Alzheimer's care training for assisted living staff, ensuring residents receive tailored care.

Strengthening Animal Welfare

Animal welfare saw improvement with SB 876, which reformed the Texas Licensed Breeders Program, enhancing standards and combating unethical practices.

LALANI LEGISLATION AT-A-GLANCE



Our 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
- 9 Amendments adopted
- 23 Resolutions passed
- 35 No hearing in the House
- 26 Passed the House
- 17 Left Pending in House Committee

89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION PREVIEW

As we embark on the 89th Legislative Session, our office remains steadfast in our commitment to addressing the key challenges facing Texans today. From ensuring access to quality healthcare and promoting public safety to fostering educational opportunities and protecting consumer rights, we are focused on advancing thoughtful and inclusive solutions that benefit every corner of our community. This session also brings a renewed focus on building resilience in our infrastructure and environment to better prepare for the challenges of tomorrow. The following are just a few of the priorities we are pursuing this session. Together, these initiatives represent our office's dedication to creating a healthier, safer, and more equitable Texas for all.

Healthcare Initiatives

Healthcare reform is a cornerstone of our legislative agenda, focusing on expanding access to Medicaid and developing innovative solutions to support low-income Texans. Our proposals aim to address the needs of those with critical health conditions by improving eligibility standards and expanding health benefit options. We are also prioritizing equitable care by strengthening emergency medical services, such as dialysis treatments for individuals with end-stage renal disease and establishing critical health and safety protocols for assisted living facilities. These reforms aim to provide better resources for caregivers and enhance emergency preparedness, ensuring that all Texans receive the care they need when they need it most.

Public Safety and Responsible Gun Ownership

Strengthening public safety is a top priority this session. Our office is advancing legislation to promote responsible gun ownership and protect communities by addressing firearm accessibility and transfers, enhancing background checks, and implementing stricter penalties for violations. Through bipartisan collaboration on common-sense measures, we aim to reduce gun-related harm while respecting constitutional rights.

Consumer Protections

Protecting consumers from unfair practices is essential. Proposed legislation seeks to ensure transparency in subscription service agreements by requiring clear terms and the ability to cancel services without excessive hurdles. We are also pursuing measures to shield families from the burden of having medically necessary debt reported on credit records, reducing financial strain during health crises. These efforts aim to empower Texans with fairness, financial security, and consumer rights.

Education and Inclusivity

Education reform is central to our legislative priorities, with a strong focus on fostering inclusivity and safety in Texas schools. Proposed legislation supports the development of a maternal healthcare workforce, improves bilingual resources and reporting mechanisms to address harassment and violence on campuses, and mandates dietary inclusivity in school meal programs. By addressing diverse needs, we aim to create learning environments that are safe and supportive for all students, regardless of background.

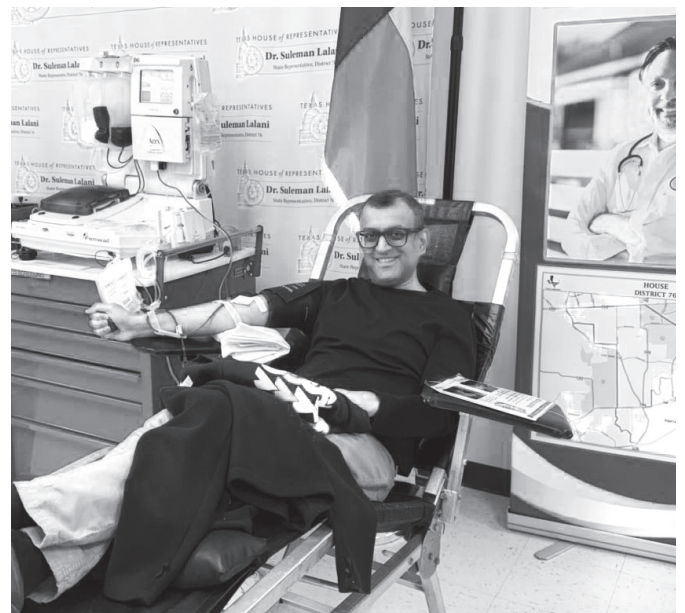
Environmental and Infrastructure Resilience

To prepare for future challenges, we are prioritizing sustainability and infrastructure resilience. A proposed study will explore the feasibility of burying power lines along the Gulf Coast to reduce weather-related outages and improve energy reliability. Additionally, enhanced air quality monitoring in industrial counties will increase transparency and accountability for environmental impacts. These initiatives are designed to promote cleaner air, better resource management, and stronger infrastructure for communities.

Support for Seniors

Our senior population deserves dignity and security, which is why we are introducing legislation to improve safety and care in senior living communities. Proposed measures include comprehensive emergency response protocols and clear guidelines for power outage management. These initiatives aim to address the unique needs of seniors, ensuring they can age with dignity and independence.

The 89th Legislative Session represents a critical opportunity to address complex issues with bold, inclusive solutions. We encourage you to stay engaged with our office and share your thoughts as we work toward meaningful, lasting change for all Texans.



Rep. Lalani partnered with Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center and Moms Demand Action to host a successful holiday blood drive at the District 76 office. Donors, including community members, came together to support local patients in need. Special thanks to all participants for their generosity and commitment to saving lives.



OUT IN DISTRICT 76

Empowering Futures: Laptop Distribution to Students

I had the privilege of partnering with AT&T, Junior Achievement, Human IT and Fort Bend ISD to distribute laptops to 50 deserving students at Barbara Jordan Elementary. It was heartwarming to see the joy on their faces as they received the tools they need to succeed. Supporting our students and bridging the digital divide is essential for building a brighter future for our community. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible!



Rep. Lalani shares a special moment, presenting a laptop to a student and helping pave the way for their educational success.



Rep. Lalani joins the Exchange Club of Sugar Land in spreading holiday cheer, donating books to inspire young readers.

Spreading Holiday Cheer with Santa's Exchange

This holiday season, I was honored to donate over 300 books, generously contributed by the Fort Bend Medical Society, to the Santa's Exchange event. Organized by the Exchange Club of Sugar Land in partnership with East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry and Fort Bend ISD, this initiative brought the joy of reading to underserved children and teens in our community. Witnessing their smiles and excitement was truly inspiring, reminding us how small acts of kindness can make a lasting difference.

JOIN, ENGAGE & CONNECT DURING THE 89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

As the 89th Legislative Session commences, your active participation is crucial in shaping the future of our community and state. The decisions made in Austin directly impact House District 76, and your voice ensures that our collective needs and aspirations are represented. I invite you to stay informed, engage with our office, and connect with the legislative process.

STAY INFORMED ABOUT THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

The Texas House of Representatives website is a comprehensive resource for tracking legislative activities:

1. Visit: house.texas.gov
2. **Find Your Representative:** Use the "Who Represents Me" tool to confirm your district information.
3. **Legislation:** Access the "Bills Authorized/Sponsored" section to view bills and resolutions filed during the session.
4. **Live Streams:** Watch live streams of House debates and committee hearings via the "Broadcast Events" tab.

ENGAGE WITH OUR OFFICE

Our office is committed to transparency and open communication. We provide regular updates on legislative developments, district events, and opportunities for community involvement. Your insights and feedback are invaluable in guiding our legislative priorities.

CONNECT AND COLLABORATE

We encourage you to share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas. Whether you have questions about specific legislation, need assistance with state services, or want to discuss issues affecting our district, our team is here to assist you.

GET INVOLVED:

- **Monitor Legislation:** Stay updated on bills and legislative schedules through house.texas.gov.
- **Attend Events:** Participate in capitol events and meetings to voice your perspectives.
- **Reach Out:** Contact our office to share your priorities or seek assistance.

STAY CONNECTED:

Phone: (512) 463-0596

Email: District76.Lalani@house.texas.gov

Office Address: Capitol Office: E1.212, P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768

Social Media: Follow us on Facebook and X (Formerly Twitter) for real-time updates.

Your engagement is the cornerstone of effective representation. Together, we can navigate the 89th Legislative Session to foster a prosperous and inclusive future for House District 76 and all Texans.

OUT IN DISTRICT 76

Engaging directly with the community through events, service projects, and discussions is at the heart of our mission to represent and advocate for the needs of our district. Whether it's addressing pressing concerns, celebrating local heroes, or providing assistance during challenging times, we are committed to making a positive impact and fostering a stronger, more connected community.

Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program

It was an honor to speak at the Grand Rounds for the Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program. As both a physician and legislator, I had the privilege of addressing family practice residents and medical students on the vital intersection of policy and healthcare advocacy. Engaging with these future healthcare leaders was an inspiring reminder of the impact we can have when we bridge medicine and public service.



Rep. Lalani with family practice residents and medical students.

Veterans Day Tribute

The sight of 2,000 American flags flying high in Sugar Land was a powerful tribute to our veterans, first responders, and community heroes. Thank you to the Exchange Club of Sugar Land for organizing this meaningful event, which celebrated the bravery and sacrifices of those who serve to protect our freedom. It was a heartfelt reminder of why we call this country the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Storm Recovery Efforts in District 76

In the wake of Hurricane Beryl, our interns and staff worked together to assist families impacted by the storm. Despite facing their own challenges, they joined Serve Sugar Land to clear fallen trees, debris, and storm damage from homes across the district. Special thanks to Serve Sugar Land for providing supplies and identifying families in need. This effort truly embodied the spirit of community resilience and teamwork. Please remember to report storm damage to the state to ensure continued recovery efforts.

HD 76 Community Town Hall on the Proposed Power Plant

Residents from across District 76 joined us for a Community Town Hall at Macario Garcia Middle School to discuss the proposed natural gas power plant in Sugar Land. Experts shared information and answered questions on the environmental, economic, and community impacts of the project. Thank you to everyone who participated and voiced their concerns. Together, we will continue to prioritize the well-being of our district.



Rep. Lalani honors a veteran at the Exchange Club of Sugar Land event.



HD 76 interns volunteering to support storm recovery efforts in the community.

DISTRICT 76 ★ CONTACT US

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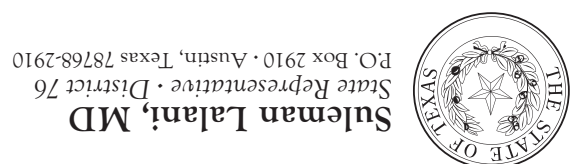
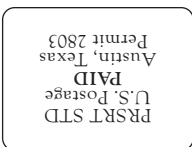
Committees: Higher Education • Natural Resources • Resolutions Calendars

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REPRESENTATIVE SULEMAN LALANI, M.D.

88th Legislative Update Newsletter • 2024



★ IMPORTANT MESSAGE ★



We value your feedback and want to hear from you! Scan the QR code to email us at district76.lalani@house.texas.gov

- 1 What are the three most pressing issues facing our community?
- 2 Are you interested in helping us with legislation? If so, what are your three main interests?

You can also mail your feedback to:
REP. SULEMAN LALANI • P.O. Box 2910 | Austin, TX 78768

