



Texas State Representative

**ROBERTO R. ALONZO**

Capitol Report

Texas House District 104 • Dallas

Fall 2011

Dear Friends:

It has been an honor to continue representing the constituents of District 104 of the House of Representatives. As I complete the first quarter of the 82nd regular legislative session, which was held from Tuesday, January 11th through May 30th of 2011, along with a special session from May 31st to June 29th, I am eager to continue informing you of all legislative issues. This newsletter includes reports of some of the legislative highlights and laws passed. The ultimate goal of the laws is to improve the quality of life for all Texans, including the approximately 150,000 constituents from District 104 in southwest Dallas, particularly those residents from north Oak Cliff, The city of Cockrell Hill and northeast Grand Prairie.

There is no doubt that the challenges lawmakers tackled this past session were many and varied. Some were more complex than others – ranging from the State budget, redistricting, education reform, immigration reform, transportation, and health and human services, to name a few. Lawmakers had to make some very important decisions throughout the session keeping the best interests and needs of all Texans a priority. In the end and first and foremost at all times was improving the quality of life for all Texans in general, and of the constituents of District 104 in particular.

If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions or concerns. You may reach my offices by calling the Austin Capitol Office toll-free at (866) 449-5770, directly at (512) 463-0408 or locally in the Dallas District Office at 214-942-7104. You can also direct any email by visiting the House web site at: <http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/member-page/email/?district=104&session81> or the email below and enter your comments.



*Representative Alonzo with wife Sylvana and AT&T Official at opening of the AT&T Performing Arts Center.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roberto R. Alonzo".

Roberto R. Alonzo  
Texas State Representative

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# A QUICK GLIMPSE OF THE GENERAL ISSUES DEBATED DURING THE 82ND LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN AUSTIN

As you read this newsletter report, you will get just a glimpse, an overview of some of the most important legislative measures that passed, some that did not pass, as well as some of the tougher decisions had to be made on your behalf in Austin. Additionally, the report will provide a brief synopsis and sampling of some of the key legislative measures that were either authored or joint-authored and successfully passed by your representative in the legislature. As you peruse the report, keep in mind that this is not, by any means, a complete listing of all the legislative measures passed during the 82nd 140-day regular session. Among examples of those measures that required a defensive role were those including sanctuary cities, immigration reform (Arizona-style tactics), voter ID, and cuts to education, Medicaid, loss of teachers, scholarships for college students, and others like them.

We started the legislative session with an anticipated \$27 billion state budget shortfall and redistricting among the hot button issues, so those 2 issues alone were enough to keep all lawmakers very busy, to say the least. However, my veteran legislative experience, networking abilities, and any other input necessary from all sources, were put to good use to work with my colleagues in a nonpartisan manner to ensure that the lives of all Texans would be better off in the end. As always, working cooperatively with elected officials at all levels of government - local, county, state, and federal officials alike was crucial - to make certain that the most important needs and priorities of the constituents of District 104, the City of Dallas, and the DFW/North Texas region at large, were adequately addressed. Rest assured that there is significant value in your input and suggestions as constituents. Please do not view the end of these two sessions, as the end in and of themselves; there is still much work that remains to be done. It is that type of feedback from you, the constituents that guides my legislative path and effectiveness as a policymaker. (For a more in-depth look at any of the legislative issues described in this newsletter or any other related reports, and their respective funding levels as debated by the 82nd Texas Legislature, readers should visit the Legislature's website at [www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us) or at [www.Legis.state.tx.us](http://www.Legis.state.tx.us) [enter Bill Number, see Enrolled Version for the most updated version] or the Texas Legislative Budget Board's website at [www.lbb.state.tx.us](http://www.lbb.state.tx.us) and go going directly to the respective bill in question).

Again, this report is not a complete or full report of all legislation passed or not passed during the 82nd regular session. For a more complete and thorough report, you are urged to visit the websites cited above to get a closer idea of some of the highlights and other measures enacted during both the 140-day and the 30-day special sessions in Austin. Attached below is a brief synopsis of some of the key measures passed by the 82nd Legislature. Whether it was education, health reform, issues for elderly Texans or our proud veterans, redistricting, immigration reform, or the state budget, all these measure will have an impact in your daily lives one way or another. So let us take a look at just some of those measures.

## HIGHER EDUCATION ISSUES

### Alonzo Scholars Program to Continue Training Teachers in Bilingual Education at UNT

One exciting educational program that will continue to get funded and remain intact for two more academic years of the 2012-2013 biennium during the 82nd Regular Session is the *Roberto R. Alonzo Bilingual/ESL Education Scholars Program* at the University of North Texas (UNT) - Dallas campus. Thanks to efforts of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), particularly Commissioner Dr. Raymund Paredes and the UNT-Dallas campus administration, the program was able to secure the \$300,000 funding to continue the operation of the program at UNT for the 2011-12



Representative Alonzo (extreme right) stands with Scholar graduates from UNT-Dallas Campus.



On March 14, Representative Alonzo (center) with DISD Educators, Maria "Libby" Elizondo & Arthur D. Elizondo during an Education Rally at the State Capitol.

and 2012-13 academic years. This much-needed funding will make sure that this nationally-recognized teacher training program at UNT stays in place and continues to address the bilingual education teacher shortage problem in the DFW/North Texas region. The program which has been funded since the 2004-2005 school year and has collectively offered *over \$1.5 million dollars* to over 125 teachers, helps both current and potential teachers gain certification in bilingual education and English-As-A-Second Language (ESL) teaching, specifically in the DFW area where there is a shortage of such teachers. The program was initially passed by the 78th Texas Legislature in 2003 *"to provide tuition assistance and loan forgiveness as incentives for college students to pursue certification programs in bilingual or ESL education."* Since its initial funding, the Alonzo Scholars Program has received much praise from both the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) and the Texas Association for Bilingual Education (TABE) because of its success. Both organizations continue to encourage its replication in other parts of the state and nation.

### Refund Policy for Career Schools & Colleges Updated

HB 2784, relating to the refund policy for courses and programs at career schools and colleges, simplifies the policy by only charging students for the period they actually attend up to 75% of the course's duration. Changing the policy will also acknowledge that most programs are longer and more expensive than was typical in 1971 when the program policy was originally written 4 decades ago.

### Financial Aid & Textbook Reforms

#### More Access to Financial Aid

Together, SJR 50 and SB 1799, the measure increases the amount of financial aid funding that the Coordinating Board can issue, which would help provide continuous access to student financial aid resources to more college students. Additionally, SJR 50 proposes a constitutional amendment that provides for the issuance of general obligations bonds of up to \$1.8 Billion from the state to financial aid for students. SB 1799 amends current law relating to the student loan program administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and increases authorization for the issuance of bonds from \$125 to \$350 million. This proposed constitutional amendment will come before Texas voters during the November 8, 2011 election.

#### The Texas Grant Readiness Reform Act

The Texas Grant Readiness Reform Act (through SB 29/HB 10) establishes priority criteria for TEXAS Grant (Towards EXcellence Access and Success), the largest grant programs in Texas. With anticipated budgetary constraints, the bill provides a merit-based prioritization model in order to utilize state funds as resourcefully as possible.

#### Maximizing Financial Aid Options

HB 3577 allows a student who is eligible for both a Texas Educational Opportunity Grant and a TEXAS Grant for the same academic term to receive the grant of the greater amount.

#### Aid for Veterans and Their Families

SB 639 builds upon and clarifies the Hazlewood Legacy Act to provide guidance to institutions of higher education and ensure that Texas military personnel, veterans and dependents receive the benefits intended by the Texas Legislature.

#### Financial Assistance for Textbooks

HB 3578 increases the maximum amount of an emergency loan to include the cost of textbooks.



*Representative Alonzo celebrates 2011 Cinco de Mayo festivities with constituents in the District.*



*On Tues, May 17, on the House Floor, Representative Alonzo honored the Mountain View College Lions with HR 1236 for winning the 2011 National Junior College Athletic Association Division III Basketball National Championship in Loch Seldrake, New York - the first ever for the Dallas campus.*

## Tier One Agenda

### Rewarding Emerging Tier One Milestones

Building on HB 51 from the 81st session, HB 1000 specifies the criteria used to determine annual distributions from the constitutionally dedicated National Research University Fund (NRUF), and defines the criteria used to allocate the distributions among the eligible institutions. The NRUF corpus is now approximately \$615M.

### Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP)

The 81st Legislature established the TRIP at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to match state appropriations with certain gifts and endowments received by emerging research universities. The goal of this program is to create more Tier One universities and the 82nd Legislature continued to support the TRIP by allocating \$36M for the 2012-2013 biennium, which is 75% of the 2010-2011 level of funding. It is anticipated that the \$36M investment will generate approximately \$40M in additional private donations or over \$75M for higher education research in Texas.

### Competitive Knowledge Fund

The 82nd Legislature appropriated \$93.5M to 5 universities, (2 Tier Ones, 3 Emerging Tier Ones) that attained a 3-year total research average of \$50M before 2010, which is 75% of the 2010-2011 level of funding. The two Tier Ones were UT-Austin and Texas A&M University and UT-Dallas, University of Houston, and Texas Tech University were the 3 Emerging Tier Ones

## Improving Student Outcomes

### Higher Education Outcomes-Based Funding Act

HB 9 requires for the first time that a portion of formula funding recommendations be based on student outcomes instead of solely on student enrollment. Moreover, the bill emphasizes a funding model designed to provide incentives and reward a strong focus on helping students complete their degrees.

### Engaging Private Partners

HB 2910 grants the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in partnership with institutions of higher education, the authority to enter into public-private partnerships with certain organizations for the purpose of increasing degree completion rates.

### Increasing Graduation Rates and Improving Time to Completion

HB 3025 requires degree plans for students, improves advising and rewards students for their efforts at our two year institutions. These provisions will increase our percentage of adults with a higher education credential, help ensure that students have a road map towards their educational goals and that they are more likely to be retained and supported throughout their college career.

## Enhancing Higher Ed. Administration and Transparency

### Joint Oversight Committee on Higher Education Governance, Excellence & Transparency

The Joint Oversight Committee, established this session by proclamation of the Speaker and Lt. Governor, is charged with investigating strategies to ensure that governing boards follow the best practices when developing and implementing policy; look for major policy decisions to be adequately vetted and discussed transparently; and protect the excellence and high quality of our state's institutions of higher education.

### Texas Public Higher Education Almanac

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board released the first ever Texas Public Higher Education Almanac. The Almanac provides an easy to read compilation of basic information about the characteristics and performance of every four-year and two-year institution in the state. Hoping to be a regular fixture, the Texas Public Higher Education Almanac aims to increase accountability by providing all citizens of Texas with a transparent look at Texas Higher Education.

## Community College Access & Transfer Pathways

### Incentivizing Advancement to University

HB 2999 allows general academic teaching institutions to offer a fixed tuition rate program for students who transfer from a two-year institution with an associate degree. This type of program encourages students at two-year institutions to not only complete an associate degree, but also continue on to a four-year institution for a bachelor's degree.

## Reinventing Developmental Education

### Incorporating Best Practices

HB 1244 seeks to reform the way developmental education is delivered by institutions of higher education by using fact-based research and best practices to design curricula and effective developmental education programs.

### Coordinated Approach to Development Education

SB 162 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a statewide plan that will focus on community college delivery of developmental education. The plan will focus on utilizing technology to individualize plans for each student and to reach a greater number of students.

### Overhaul of Development Education

HB 3468 requires a study of early college readiness assessments and a review of adult education assessments, makes changes to developmental education offerings, authorizes additional coursework for the Texas Success Initiative, and addresses formula funding recommendations for developmental education.

## VETERANS / MILITARY ISSUES

### Transferring 100% Property Tax Reduction of Disabled Veterans to Widows/Eligible Dependent Children

SB 516 and its accompanying constitutional proposal (SJR 14) which would be put before Texas voters during the November 8 election for statewide approval, would transfer 100% of property tax reduction of disabled veterans to their widows and eligible dependent children should the veteran die. If approved, the measure would become effective on January 1, 2012.

### Expanding, Streamlining, and Simplifying the Military Voting bill for Military Personnel Overseas

SB 100 would expand, streamline, and simplify the military voting bill process for men and women in uniform serving overseas, under seas, and on temporary duty in the Continental USA. The measure would be advantageous to all Texas lawmakers to encourage voting by all constituents, and since Texas is military-friendly, and the Federal MOVE (Military Overseas Voting Empowerment) Act must be implemented, the legislation is a win-win for everyone.

### Recognizing Veteran-Owned Business as HUBs

SB 327 would recognize and give equal standing to certain veterans service organizations (Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business (SDVOB) as small businesses for the purpose of state contracting and Historically-Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) similar to those recognized as minority- or women-owned businesses.

### "Hazlewood College Fix" for Veterans

In 2009, the 81st Texas Legislature passed SB 93 which allows veterans and service members deployed into combat to assign unused Hazlewood College benefits to their children. Since passage and implementation of SB 639, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board requested clarification on several of the bill's provisions. SB 639 clarifies these provisions and offers guidance to institutions of higher education to make sure that Texas veterans get the full educational benefits intended by the 81st Legislature.

### Military Spouse Licensure

Military spouses experience a variety of hardships and challenges because of their husband or wife's military service. These challenges include the very real difficulty in obtaining an occupational license when she relocates to Texas because of her spouse's military duty. SB 1733 will allow state agencies that issue occupational licenses to offer alternative certification and credentialing options, as well as streamlined licensing procedures, to support the unique needs of working military spouses, so that they can more easily enter the Texas workforce when they relocate to our state.

### "College Credit for Heroes"

Countless Texas veterans receive top-level training during their military service, but have difficulty obtaining college credit for their knowledge and skills when they return home to a civilian life. SB 1736 formalizes the initiative undertaken by certain state agencies and community colleges to develop a plan for a veteran educational credit system that recognizes the invaluable skills and knowledge that military service provides. This bill maximizes academic or workforce education credits awarded by institutions of higher education to veterans with meaningful military experience through the establishment of the College Credit for Heroes program. It will allow the Texas Workforce Commission, the Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Texas Veterans Commission to identify best practices and methods for awarding academic and workforce education credits for military service.

### Military Leave Equity Act

Federal employees can accrue 15 days of military leave per federal fiscal year. This time can be carried over to the next fiscal year, as long as the maximum balance of military leave isn't more than 30 days. Currently in Texas, there is no carry-over benefit in place. Additionally, state employees who are called to state active duty (by the governor) as a member of the state military forces are entitled to receive paid emergency leave. State active duty is often used during a response to an emergency, but members of the TX Army National Guard and TX Air National Guard might transition from "state" active duty to "federal" active duty while responding to an emergency. This transition impacts the type of leave they utilize during the emergency response. The federal government provides federal employees who perform military duties in support of civil authorities in a declared emergency (or training for that purpose) up to 22 days emergency military leave. SB 1737 aligns federal and state policies regarding the ability to carry over unused military leave, and paid emergency leave given to state employees called to federal active duty during an emergency.

### Distinguished Service Medal

As a way to recognize honorable military service to our country, interested parties should be able to get specialty license plates that display certain military emblems or decorations. SB 1755 does two things: it amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to issue specialty license plates for recipients of the Distinguished Service Medal; and, it also allows recipients of disabled veteran license plates to display one other military emblem or decoration. This is just a small way of saying "thank you" to our state's veterans for their military service.

### Texas Veterans Council

Coordination of service provision ensures organizational efficiency and maximum satisfaction for those receiving the services. Current law does not include a way to coordinate the myriad services available to veterans through state government, active duty service members, and their families. S.B. 1796 establishes the Texas Coordinating Council for Veterans Services. This Council will coordinate relevant state agency activities, coordinate outreach efforts, and facilitate collaborative relationships among organizations that serve Texas' military community.



*Representative Alonzo and UT System Chancellor, Dr. Francisco Cigarroa, visit with students from Sunset High School during career recruitment day.*

## ELDERLY TEXANS/SENIOR CITIZENS ISSUES

### The Silver Alert System: Finding Our Missing Elderly Modeled After the Amber Alert System, This Network Helps Locate Wanderers

Relatives of people with dementia or Alzheimer's disease often have the nagging fear that their loved one might wander away and get lost. It's estimated that more than 9 of 10 people with dementia who leave the house alone are likely to be unable to find their way home without assistance, giving caregivers and other relatives endless moments of anxiety until their loved one is found. The Silver Alert System is designed to provide some reassurance to anxious relatives that their missing seniors can be reunited with them. The Silver Alert is patterned after the Amber Alert system, but instead of missing children this one informs the public about missing seniors with mental impairments. For more information on the various insightful and valuable pieces of information you can obtain about this program, visit the website at:

[http://www.elderoptionsoftexas.com/listings/listings\\_search.cfm](http://www.elderoptionsoftexas.com/listings/listings_search.cfm)

### Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) & the Texas Department of Aging & Disability Services (DADS)

Local area agencies on aging work within their communities to help older people, their family members and caregivers receive the information and assistance they need in locating and accessing community services.

### Covered services

- **Information, referral and assistance** — Assessing older Texans' needs, finding organizations capable of meeting the needs, evaluating all appropriate resources, providing enough information about each resource to help older Texans make informed choices, helping them find alternative resources, actively linking people to needed services and performing follow-up to ensure the services were provided.
- **Benefits counseling/legal assistance** — Assistance obtaining information regarding public benefits, private benefits and community support programs. Benefits counseling services include assisting older Texans with understanding their rights, applying for benefits and receiving appropriate referrals, exercising choice, benefiting from services and opportunities authorized by law, and maintaining their rights, especially those people with reduced capacities. Consumer-protection issues are a major theme in benefits counselors' work, along with basic questions about rights, benefits and entitlements.
- **Care coordination** — Assessing, planning, arranging, coordinating and following-up on services that most appropriately meet identified needs as mutually defined by AAA staff, the older Texan, and, where appropriate, a family member or other caregiver.
- **Caregiver Support Services** — Provides critical support needed by families to help them maintain their caregiver roles.
- **In-home support services** — These services support a continuum of services designed to help older Texans remain in their homes and communities. The Older Americans Act requires that allocated funds be used to bring together community resources — public, private, formal and informal — to assure a range of efficient, well-coordinated and accessible services are available to older Texans.
- **Legal awareness** — In a group setting, older Texans are provided accurate, timely and relevant information about eligibility criteria, requirements and procedures related to public entitlements, health and long-term care, individual rights, planning and protection options, housing, and consumer issues.
- **Nutrition services** — These services include congregate and home-delivered meals, as well as nutrition education, counseling and consultation.
- **Ombudsman Program** — This program, which is administered by the Office of the State Long-term Care Ombudsman, works closely with the 28 local programs to advocate for the rights of residents and their families so they receive the highest quality of care in long-term care facilities. Specially trained staff and certified volunteers serve as advocates in 1,124 licensed facilities across the state.



*During Senior Day 2011 at the State Capitol - Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011, Representative Alonzo, visited with elderly Texans who converged in Austin to advocate issues that impact their constituencies, including nursing homes, taxes, homestead exemptions, utility rates, and other issues.*

### How to apply for services

Contact your AAA by calling **1-800-252-9240** or by visiting the *DADS Help for Texans* website at: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/faqs-fact/aaa.html>.

In **Dallas County specifically**, the AAA phone and websites are:

800-548-1873, 214-871-5065, or <http://www.ccgd.org/seniors/daaa.html>

### Emergency Home Monitoring Systems for the Elderly

Many older people fear falling and sustaining an injury, becoming ill overnight, isolation, and intruders. These worries are often very valid. An *Emergency Home Response System (EHRS)* can provide the security and comfort of knowing that if a fall occurs, or security becomes an issue, help is just a push button away. An EHRS is a monitored electronic communication system designed to enable seniors and the disabled to continue living in their own home while providing prompt access to emergency services if ever necessary. With the touch of a button on the communication device, a prearranged system is activated to respond to the senior's urgent needs. The device puts the senior in touch with a live person who finds out what type of assistance the senior needs. The monitoring person on the other end calls friends, family, or neighbors who will go to the senior's home to assist him or her. The monitoring person can also call 911 for ambulance, police or fire.

The *Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS)* can provide a list of providers that are licensed by the state of Texas to sell and install the system. For more information about this important program, call (512) 834-6602, fax (512) 834-6677, or write at Personal Emergency Response System Providers Program, Texas Department of State Health Services, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756-3183, USA, or e-mail at [PERSalarm@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:PERSalarm@dshs.state.tx.us)

### The Benefits of Home Modification and Repairs for Older Adults

Home modification and repair includes adaptations to homes that can make it easier and safer to manage activities of daily living for senior Texans, such as bathing, cooking, stair climbing, and even assistance with paying utility bills and home weatherization. Examples include installing grab bars and transfer benches in bathrooms, and ramps and handrails for home access. Alterations to the physical structure of the home can improve its overall safety and condition. Additionally, there are several ways to get help with modifying and repairing your home. Besides doing it yourself, getting a friend or relative, or hiring a handyman, you can contact a home modification and repair company through your local *Area Agency On Aging* (or AAA as described above). Still other programs for Home Modification can be found at State Housing Finance Agency, Department of Public Welfare, Department of Community Development, and Senior Center Independent Living Centers.

The *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)* Energy Assistance Section administers two federally-funded programs through subrecipient agencies. These programs are the **Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)** and the **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)**. CEAP provides heating and cooling home energy assistance. WAP provides weatherization services. To apply for services, you may use the links below to obtain contact information for the local agencies. You must contact the local agency to obtain an application. Older people too often live in older homes, 20 years or older, that desperately need some types of repairs and modifications. Home modification and repair can accommodate lifestyle changes along with declining abilities to also increase comfort. For more information on these useful and important programs, visit the websites at either <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/ea/wap.htm> OR <http://www.usc.edu/dept/gero/nrcshh/directory/tx.htm>

## WOMEN'S ISSUES

The 82nd session proved particularly detrimental for women's health issues, as the legislative majority proposed several pro-life oriented bills, and were diligent about tacking pro-life amendments to almost every other major bill. The following is just a survey of what was passed into law that will impact women's issues.

### Mandatory Pre-Abortion Sonograms

The legislature passed emergency item House Bill 15. Women who are seeking abortions will now be forced to receive a sonogram twenty-four hours in advance in order to see the image of the fetus and hear its heartbeat. There are a few exceptions for women who have been sexually assaulted and women whose life is being jeopardized by the fetus. An exception was also added in the Senate that allows women who live more than 100 miles from an abortion facility to have their sonogram performed only two hours previous to the abortion. This program is currently on appeal by the state as it has been declared unconstitutional by the higher courts.

### Funding Cuts

Funding for the Medicaid Women's Health Program was in jeopardy this year as our leadership believed this funding was used primarily by health care facilities, such as Planned Parenthood and to fund abortions. The Medicaid Women's Health Program provides birth control and cancer screenings to 120,000 low-income women in Texas; Planned Parenthood provides care to more than 40% of those clients. The program saves Texas taxpayers over \$40 million each year. A conference committee on the state budget voted to renew the Medicaid



*Representative Alonzo is honored by members of the Texas Federation of Fire Fighters in March for his advocacy work on behalf of fire fighters.*

Women's Health Program but the threat remains that a rule promulgated by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will exclude Planned Parenthood from participating as a provider in the program. The rule excluding Planned Parenthood from the program is expected to be released early this fall.

### Judicial Bypass

Several bills were proposed this past session to amend the judicial bypass process, which allows minors who are seeking abortions to seek a judicial bypass so that they do not have to inform their parents of their intention to receive and abortion. The bills came very close to passage but were ultimately unsuccessful. It will be important to look out for any bills in the future that hope to amend this process or create more stringent thresholds for determining the factors by which can grant a minor judicial bypass.

### Coercive Abortions

A new issue that appeared this session regarded coercive abortions. Several members of the legislature tried to pass bills that would have women who have abortions report whether or not they have been coerced into doing so, and providing penalties to individuals who coerce women. Although the bills were marketed as a means to protect women, the information collected by these bills would be very intrusive and would be used in the future as data to further the case for the abolition of abortions.

## IN CLOSING

We as policymakers CANNOT do it alone. We always need your help and support. With the 82nd Regular & Special Sessions now history, and as we continue our work during the interim period between sessions, I look forward to continue to hear from you and work for you as one of your elected Texas State Representatives in Austin. Thus, you are urged to continue to contact my offices in Dallas or Austin, and express your views and opinions on any important and pressing issues you may have. Rest assured that your input and suggestions as constituents does matter.

While it has truly been a rewarding honor to address the needs of the constituents of District 104, it has also been both a challenge and a valuable learning experience to serve as your policymaker in the legislature. Accordingly, I have been able to accomplish some important legislative measures that will have a positive impact on the quality of lives for many of the residents living in District 104 and the surrounding areas of Dallas. Through hard work, dedication, and perseverance, I am determined to continue my advocacy as a public servant and be an effective leader that you can be proud to call your State Representative. Working together, the legislature will work to improve educational opportunities for all children; make a college education accessible and financially affordable for all qualified Texans; improve benefits and working conditions for our teachers; address the escalating health care needs and social service needs of all hard-working average families, elderly, and veterans; tackle crime in our neighborhoods; but most importantly, to improve the quality of life for all hard-working Texans in general, and the constituents of House District 104 in particular.



*Representative Alonzo and other lawmakers addressed concerned Texans at the South Steps visiting the Capitol about foreclosures issues.*



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 Veterans Land Board ..... 800-252-VETS  
 Crime Victims ..... 800-983-9933  
 Consumer Protection Hotline ..... 800-621-0508  
 Nursing Home Complaints ..... 800-458-9858  
 Department of Aging ..... 512-438-3011  
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 National Domestic Violence ..... 800-799-7233  
 Adult Protective Services ..... 800-252-5400  
 Child Support ..... 800-252-8014  
 Missing Persons Clearinghouse ..... 800-346-3243  
 Runaway Hotline ..... 1-888-580-HELP  
 AG's Legal Help for Seniors ..... 800-622-2520  
 Texas Lottery Commission ..... 800-375-6886  
 Department of Insurance ..... 800-252-3439  
 CHIP ..... 877-KIDS-NOW



*Representative Alonzo meets with constituents during Children's Advocacy Day*



*Representative Alonzo meets with health care professionals to discuss health care*

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