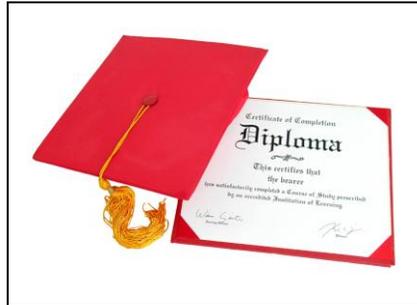




REPRESENTATIVE ROBERTO R. ALONZO'S capitol report



For more information concerning these topics or to schedule an appointment please call (512) 463-0408 or visit www.house.state.tx.us



Rep. Alonzo Announces the NHCSL John S. Martinez Scholarship for 2012-13 School Year

Rep. Alonzo joins the National Hispanic Caucus for State Legislators (NHCSL) of which he is a proud member, in announcing the John S. Martinez Leadership Scholarship program. The application period is now open and the deadline to apply is September 14, 2012.

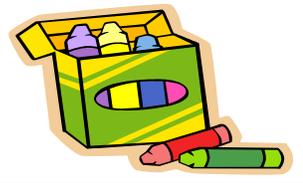
"In light of the current economic situation, coupled with the fact that tuition, institutional fees and the overall costs of getting a college education continues to escalate, I urge all qualified students to apply for this NHCSL scholarship," said Rep. Alonzo. ***"Moreover, as those costs increase, the accessibility and affordability of a college education continues to become more out of reach for average hard-working families. Thus, it becomes more imperative that our youth and their families take advantage of scholarship programs like this one. I applaud organizations like THA that are helping us meet those demands,"*** continued Rep. Alonzo.

The NHCSL Scholarship program, which is possible due to a generous contribution from Comcast, is targeted to college-bound Hispanic high school students. The scholarships are awarded based on a selection criteria and are selected by an independent review committee.

This year we are proud to announce that the program has been expanded from traditionally being limited to 3-4 states, to applicants from any state as long as they reside within the district of a NHCSL member legislator. Additionally, we have nearly doubled the number of scholarships.

While resources are limited, our goal is to have more qualified students apply for the scholarship to identify the most needy and ideal recipients. To apply, students are directed to visit the website directly at <http://nhcsl.org/closing-the-achievement-gap.php>. The website link includes a copy of the application and other criteria. **Again, the deadline for submitting applications is September 14, 2012.**

Back-to-School Tax-Free Holiday Weekend Coming Up; Weekend of Friday, Sat, & Sun, Aug 17, 18 & 19



Rep. Alonzo Urges Parents, Schools & Students To Take Advantage of Annual Tax-Free Holiday Coming; Weekend of Fri, Sat, & Sun, Aug. 17, 18 & 19, 2012 ~ Texas Families Save Millions During Break ~

Rep. Alonzo once again reminds Texas' families, including the thousands in Dallas and the surrounding DFW region, that the annual back-to-school **Sales Tax Holiday** is coming up, and not too late, to start planning for it; it is the weekend of **August 17-19, 2012**, and extends from 12:01 am, on **Friday, August 17 and ends at midnight on Sunday, August 19**.

"The Sales Tax Holiday is a great way and a terrific financial opportunity for Texas families to save some money as they prepare for the new school year. And I support any type of tax breaks that Texas families can take advantage of in order to offset the increasing cost of living, especially during this time of the year when so many of our children are getting ready to go back to school and many coming from families that are having to struggle to put food on the table. Every year, it is becoming more expensive to purchase even the most basic pieces of clothing and standard school supplies simply to help our children start the school year. The problem is magnified when children come from families that earn minimum wage or live from paycheck to paycheck. While I agree that this annual tax-free holiday weekend may not be the cure all, it will go a long way in helping many Texas families with much needed tax breaks as they get ready to send their children back to school. I am pleased to have been part of the legislation and to do my part to make this tax-free holiday a successful one for all Texas families and children. I encourage everyone to take advantage of it as much as possible," Rep. Alonzo said.

Rep. Alonzo said that consumers will be able to buy most clothes and shoes priced under \$100 tax-free during the three-day weekend. Also, because of a 2007 change in the law, shoppers can also purchase school backpacks for elementary and secondary students tax-free this year. Also, as a result of 2009 legislation, there are a number of other items that have been added to the list. To help with that, this press release includes a couple of useful attachments from the Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA) state agency that outlines an all-inclusive list of all items that qualify for the tax-free exemptions. Texas families are expected to save tens of millions of dollars in sales tax during this year's Sales Tax Holiday.

For further information on the Sales Tax Holiday weekend, one can call toll-free at (800) 252-5555 or (512) 463-4600, or visit the Comptroller's website at www.texasstaxholiday.org, or also access the link at: http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxpubs/tx98_490/tx98_490.html