

Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's

Capitol Report



Update: Medicare News!

If you have the Medicare plan you could receive price breaks on your prescriptions in 2013, for brand name drugs. Generic prescriptions are up to a 7 percent discount so be sure to check for savings! Your savings will continue to grow each year until 2020 so keep an eye out for prescription price changes. Medicare is also helping you save on medical equipment! Necessary medical equipment like walkers and wheel chairs are now going to be offered at more competitive rates that will ultimately be more affordable to you. For more information regarding new Medicare incentives for 2013-- visit medicare.gov.



Representatives of Los Barrios Unidos Health Clinic Meet with Rep. Alonzo

(From Left to Right: Rep. Alonzo with *Ms. Herlinda Bonilla* and *Ms. Joleen Bagwell*, representatives of *Los Barrios Unidos Community Clinic of Dallas* who visited the State Capitol on Tues, Jan 29, 2013, in conjunction with *Community Health Clinics Lobby Day*)

As part of **Community Health Clinics Lobby Day at the Capitol**, Rep. Alonzo met with representatives of Los Barrios Unidos Community Health Clinic in Dallas to discuss health issues that impact their clients and the organization in general.

LBUCC is one of two federally funded community health centers in the Dallas County area designed to provide comprehensive primary care services that prevent illness and promote health. There are over 1,100 federally funded community and migrant health centers in the United States providing a health care home for over 18 million Americans. Community health centers have been in existence for more than forty years, reducing hospitalization by over 200% and reducing the pressure on hospital emergency rooms in countless ways.



*picture from medicare.gov

Governor Perry's 2013 State of the State Address regarding Higher Education

"As families continue to struggle with the cost of higher education, I am renewing my call for a four-year tuition freeze, locking in tuition rates at or below the freshman level for four years." Quoted from Governor Perry in his State of the State Address on Tuesday the 29th provides us with answers. The cost of higher education is important in Texas and is not being overlooked by the government. The education of our citizens is critical to keep our economy working; and a competitive place for Texans to thrive. Higher education in Texas boasts some of the nation's most esteemed colleges and to keep that standard of education here, we need to make it affordable.

Silence your cell phones!

The Lifeline program is available to eligible low-income consumers. With a cell phone you may be able to compete for job interviews, and feel safe. Consumers with proper proof of eligibility may be qualified to enroll in this program for assistance. Safe Link Wireless is now making it easier to retrieve the free cell phone and minutes through mail. With this service you can receive a brand-name cell phone with 1,000 free text messages or 250 free minutes each month for local and long distance calls. SafeLink is offering faster service compared to other cell phone companies that may take up to four weeks for processing. For more information regarding the Lifeline Program visit <http://www.fcc.gov/lifeline>