

## Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's

## Capitol Report



### Rep. Alonzo Addresses Elderly Texans at Senior Source Legislative Forum, Fri, Jan 30

Rep. Alonzo was among a host of elected officials who addressed a group of elderly Texans as part of a **Legislative Forum** hosted by Senior Source of Dallas on Friday, Jan 30. Among the issues Rep. Alonzo shared with the audience were: long term care, adult protective services, assisted living facilities, guardianship, and Medicaid reimbursement among others. Senior Source hosts these annual forums to highlight their priorities in preparation for the legislative sessions in Austin. Additionally, they do this as they get ready to take part in the biennial "**Senior Day at the Capitol.**" This year, that event takes place on Tuesday, Feb 17.

Senior Day is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions older adults have made and will continue to make to the state of Texas. Seniors from all over the state converge at the State Capitol to meet with their legislators and spread their message and issues they would like to see addressed by lawmakers.

**[Photos - right:** Rep. Alonzo addresses Senior Source Legislative Forum]



### Community College Day at Capitol, Tues, Feb 3

Tues, Feb 3, was busy with students from across the state who converged as part of **Community College Day at the Capitol**. Rep. Alonzo (left photo) met with a number of students from Mountain View College, Collin County Community College, and others from the Dallas area. They shared with Rep. Alonzo some of priority issues they would be advocating that impact their colleges, including tuition, fees, textbooks, graduation rates, and other related matters.



### Rep. Alonzo Urges Residents to Enroll in Affordable Healthcare NOW; Deadline is Feb 15

The **deadline of Feb. 15** to enroll in the Affordable Healthcare plan is fast approaching and Rep. Alonzo urges residents to enroll in a health insurance plan before that date, and how important it is to be enrolled and insured. If you were enrolled in a 2014 Marketplace plan, your coverage ended December 31, 2014. This is true no matter when your 2014 coverage began. To continue health coverage in 2015, you can renew your current health plan or choose a new plan through the Marketplace until the **DEADLINE of February 15, 2015**. Finally, you can **change plans any time** until February 15, even if you were automatically enrolled in a plan and that coverage has already begun. Change plans by the 15th of the month and your coverage begins the first day of the next month.

**"There is no doubt that our country is facing a serious problem when it comes to adequate health care coverage. The Affordable Healthcare Act is intended to address that serious issue. More than ever, we need the help of all stakeholders, including elected officials at all levels of government - to come together regardless of party lines, philosophical differences, or geographic region of the country, to urge everyone to get properly insured and improve their quality of life. The ACA offers a great opportunity to obtain necessary health care access and affordability. I urge everyone to sign up and enroll before the deadline,"** said Rep. Alonzo.

You can enroll in **Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)** any time of year. If you own or operate a **small business**, you can start offering coverage to your employees any time. But also keep in mind that if you don't have health coverage during 2015, you may have to pay a penalty. The fee in 2015 is higher than it was for 2014 — 2% of your income or \$325 per adult/\$162.50 per child, whichever is more.

Residents that need to enroll in a health insurance plan can call 311, visit [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov), or visit one of these ten Dallas-area library branches during library hours: (1) Bachman Lake (2) North Oak Cliff (3) Hampton-Illinois (4) Oak Lawn (5) J. Erik Johnson Central (6) Pleasant Grove (7) Kleberg Rylie (8) Polk Wisdom (9) Martin Luther King, Jr. Or (10) Prairie Creek.