

Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's
Capitol Report




The image on the left depicts Rep. Alonzo with peace officers from University of Texas Houston, U.T Southwestern, U.T San Antonio, Tarleton State, and Terrell Independent School District!

This group of officers wanted to discuss House Bill (HB) 1821 which is an effort between the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT) and Rep. Alonzo to improve retirement benefits for peace officers. HB 1821 is a bill that was sent to the Pensions committee and it relates to the eligibility for membership and funding of benefits for certain law enforcement custodial and other peace officers.

We received word this week that HB 1821 will be heard in committee on Monday March 30, 2015. Wish us luck!

Social Security to Expand Field Office Hours

Social Security announces as a result of Congress' approval of the fiscal year 2015 budget, the agency will expand its hours nationwide and offices will be open to the public for an additional hour on Monday, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, effective March 6, 2015. A field office that is usually open from 9 am to 3 pm will remain open until 4 pm. Offices will continue to close to the public at noon every Wednesday so employees have time to complete current work and reduce backlogs.

To get a complete listing and hours of operations for Social Security Offices in your area, visit the website at: <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp> Once you are in the site, enter your zip code, and you will get the exact information you need.

Health & Economic Benefits of Expanding Coverage

Do you know many local jobs would be created in your county if Texas closed the health care Coverage Gap? According to the Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP), it is easy to find out with. Just click on their link by visiting: <http://tools.forabettertexas.org/healthwealth/factsheets.php> It will show you all the new fact sheets for every county in Texas. You can do a search by county by simply clicking on the county you are seeking.

In [Harris County](#), for example, expanded health care coverage would create 60,000 new jobs per year and pump up to \$935 million a year into the county economy.

[View County Fact Sheets](#)

One million uninsured U.S. citizen adults in Texas stuck in the Coverage Gap are waiting for Texas leaders to act. [A strong, diverse coalition](#) including business groups, chambers of commerce, and county judges is calling for a Texas approach to expanding health care coverage to more Texans.

Data come from recent estimates by respected Texas and national experts, including the U.S. Census, economist Dr. Ray Perryman and former Texas Deputy Comptroller Billy Hamilton. Using the same data sources as the fact sheets, our online Health & Wealth County Checkup tool allows you to compare benefits across counties. The CPPP is a well-respected think tank organization that provides an array of valuable information including but not limited to education, children and family well-being, economic forecasts, health and human services, wellness and food and nutrition.

[Source: CPPP Data Facts, 2015]