

Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's

Capitol Report



**SB 1934 – State Issued Identification Card**

Rep. Alonzo fought to prevent passage of SB 1934. This bill will make it impossible for people to attain a state identification card without a social security card. This will have a detrimental affect on many people who need some form of identification to function in our society. Rep. Alonzo will continue to fight bad legislation that marginalizes people who have a right to human dignity.

**HB 1346 - Protection for Indigent Defendants in Court**

All Texans have a right to a fair trial and defense proceedings. This right is not always available to poor or indigent Texans. Rep. Alonzo and Senator Jose Rodriguez sponsored HB 1346 to promote constitutional rights to a fair trial and defense proceedings. Under the bill, attorneys could be appointed to represent defendants in the process of filing writs of habeas corpus, as a way to challenge the constitutionality of a criminal conviction. Although the bill stalled in the Senate, Rep. Alonzo will continue to advocate for the legal rights of indigent defendants.



**HB 2945 - Provides Additional Resources for At Risk Youth**

Rep. Alonzo has been long dedicated to helping our state's youth reach their full potential. Unfortunately, many at-risk youth struggle and become involved with the criminal justice system. Rep. Alonzo sponsored HB 2945, allowing for more resources available to juvenile case managers to support youth in the criminal justice system. The bill has passed the House and Senate and is currently waiting for the Governor's signature.

HB 2945 removes restrictions to funding for services and assistance available to juveniles in the correctional system. These services include juvenile alcohol and substance abuse programs, educational and leadership programs as well as other programs designed to prevent or reduce the number of juvenile referrals to the court. Once signed by the Governor, the bill will provide much valuable resources for at risk youth needing rehabilitation services and programs.



**Latino Community Faces Financial Challenges**



A recent study by the TIAA-CREF, a New York based investment firm, indicates that the majority of Latinos in the country struggle to cover monthly expenses. This is also true for college educated Latinos. The study compared the wealth status of the Latino population to other groups. Latinos were the hardest hit by the financial crises of 2008. Their household wealth fell 66% from 2005 to 2008. This compares to 53% for African Americans and 16% for whites.

Unemployment and poverty continue to be a problem for the Latino population. Unemployment for the Latino community doubled from 2007 to 2011. The poverty rate increased 6 percentage points from 2006 to 2010. The overall study points to the need for significant investment in the Latino community by the government and private sector. The complete study can be found at the following web address: <http://gflec.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/College-Educated-Hispanics-Personal-Finance-Report-2015.pdf>