

Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's Capitol Report




Smart on Crime Coalition Urges Governor To Sign HB 3579 Authored by Rep. Roberto Alonzo



A broad based coalition known as **Small on Crime Coalition** is urging Governor Abbot to sign HB 3579, authored by Representative Roberto Alonzo. The coalition represents liberal and conservative groups who advocate for criminal justice reform. Texas has an extremely high rate of incarcerations that are both unjust and costly to the state. The coalition advocates for laws that promote rehabilitation, public safety and taxpayer savings.

HB 3579 offers various opportunities for rehabilitation and fairness for people convicted of misdemeanor crimes. The bill allows for the

the expunction of public records for Class C misdemeanors. Many times Class C misdemeanors are the result of bad decisions by young people. Having these minor crimes reflected in a public record prevents people from educational and job opportunities. The bill permits a petition for nondisclosure. It also shortens the time period in which a person can petition for nondisclosure.

Rep. Roberto Alonzo stated, *“I submitted this bill in the hope of providing second chances for people who committed minor crimes. We need to provide opportunities for people to rehabilitate themselves rather marking them for life. I urge the Governor to sign the bill.”*



Rep. Alonzo Assesses 84th Legislative Session

The 84th Legislative Session was a mixed bag of legislation. Many key priority areas were left unfunded. This included funding for school finance. A \$3 billion education fix was not adopted. Instead, the legislature passed a campus carry bill that will allow guns on college campuses, an \$800 million appropriation for border security, as well as substantial tax cuts that deprive the state of needed resources for addressing several significant health and human services challenges.

On the other hand, the \$209 billion budget included significant funding for Pre-K programs. The state also kept intact a law that allows for undocumented students to pay in-state tuition at public colleges and universities. Rep. Alonzo stated, **“I am proud of how Speaker Straus was able to maintain a bipartisan attitude in the House and do what is best for Texas.”**



Texas Expands Certification Opportunities for Bilingual Education & ESL

Representative Alonzo is a strong advocate for bilingual education in the state of Texas. Certification of bilingual educators is vital to preparing teachers for this important work. Representative Alonzo worked hard during the 84th Legislative Session to increase funding for these programs in the north Texas area.

For the 2016-17 biennium, seven universities in north Texas will receive funding in the amount of \$150,000 each for certifying teachers in bilingual education and English as a Second Language (ESL). These universities include: Univ. of North Texas; Univ. of North Texas in Dallas, Texas Women’s University, University of Texas Dallas, University of Texas Arlington, Texas A&M Commerce and DFW Tech Teach. The total amount for this funding is over \$1 million dollars.



Grant Opportunities U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



The following grants are available from USDHHS, Administration for Children & Families. [Click here for information on following grants:](#)

- New Pathways for Fathers & Families
- Community Services Block Grant
- Refugee Technical Assistance Programs
- National Center for After School & Summer Enrichment
- Nat’l Center Parental and Family Engagement