

## Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's

## Capitol Report



### **Labor Day: A Celebration of ALL American Workers**

For many Americans, Labor Day is significant for one reason: it marks the end of summer and the beginning of another school year. However, as schools re-open and vacations are no longer on the agenda, the Labor Day holiday offers an opportune moment to reflect on the very concept of American workers.

Labor Day was established in 1887 to commemorate the social and economic achievements of workers, as well as pay tribute to their contributions to American society. With this year's holiday growing nearer, it is important that we reflect on and celebrate ALL American workers, including those that remain largely unrepresented.

Since the formation of the United States, immigration has vastly helped fill labor supply needs that allowed for this country to emerge, and remain, the world's economic superpower. The extensive contribution of immigrants that devote their talents and labor to production of goods and services in the U.S., truly go hand in hand with the Labor Day holiday. Currently, 16 percent of the country's workforce is comprised of foreign-born workers.

**"To this day, immigrant workers continue to be a key component of the U.S. economy and should certainly be recognized and commended on Labor Day. Furthermore, we must recognize the value of immigrant workers and the urgent need to bring them out of the shadows,"** urged Rep. Roberto Alonzo.

Please join Rep. Roberto Alonzo at the Third Annual Labor Day Weekend March, Rally and Picnic starting at 11:45am on September 5, 2015. The event will begin with a march down MLK Jr. Blvd and back to the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center where the picnic will be held. The theme this year is "Working for a Better Life for ALL Workers," with specific regards to child poverty and raising wages.



### **CSHB 2974 Addresses TRS Health Care**

Teachers Retirement Health Care programs, such as TRS-Care and TRS-ActiveCare, are facing a severe projected funding shortage. Without changes the sustainability of these programs in their current structure is at risk.

Due to the hard work and perseverance of state legislators, including Rep. Roberto Alonzo, CSHB 2974 was passed during the 84th legislative session to address these issues. This bill will allow for the creation of a joint interim committee that will investigate all available options to ensure the best care for Texas teachers and deliver the best possible solution for the issue that lie ahead. Specifically, the six-member committee will investigate the following issues:

- The financial soundness of the health benefits plan
- The cost and affordability of plan coverage to persons eligible for coverage on the plan
- The sufficiency of access to physicians and health care providers under the plans

**"Teachers truly make a lasting impact in the lives of their students. It is our responsibility to provide them with adequate care so that they can continue to inspire our youth,"** stated Rep. Roberto Alonzo.

CSHB 2974 will go into effect on Sept. 1, 2015

### **Pan Dulce Meet and Greet With Rep. Roberto Alonzo**



A special Meet & Greet was recently held on Saturday, August 22, 2015 in Grande Prairie, TX. Residents were invited to join Rep. Roberto Alonzo for some café y pan dulce, and discuss recent legislative updates. Rep. Alonzo is passionate about engaging with the community and is determined to remain very accessible to his constituents.

**"I need to be their voice at the Capitol as well as a resource in their community. That is what being a state representative is truly about,"** stated Rep. Alonzo.

This event was sponsored by school trustee David Espinosa.