

# Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's

# Capitol Report



## High Demand for Spanish-Speaking Physicians

One of the results of the rapidly growing Hispanic population in this country is the urgent demand for qualified Spanish-speaking doctors and health care providers to address their medical needs. Though these needs are vast, many Hispanics in North Texas struggle to find adequate health care because of obstacles such as language and cultural barriers between physicians and patients. Hispanic patients tend to feel more confident and comfortable interacting with doctors who speak the same language.

Further complicating the problem, recent studies show that the number of Latino physicians has not kept pace with population growth. It was found that there were 135 Hispanic physicians for every 100,000 Hispanic residents in 1980, but only 105 doctors for every 100,000 Hispanics in 2010. Improving the Latino doctor-to-patient ratio and correcting the imbalance could be key to addressing Latino health disparities

The high demand on Spanish-speaking doctors often limits their availability to see Spanish-preferred patients causing longer wait times, shorter appointments, and misinterpretation of physician instructions when forced to meet with English-speaking doctors or translators. Patients who cannot get an appointment with one of the few Spanish-speaking doctors then seek help at the emergency room which is extremely costly and inconvenient.

With this urgent demand for Spanish-speaking doctors, also follows great opportunity for Spanish-speaking students and young health care professional to combat this growing issue. For example, the Health Studies Program at El Centro Jr. College in Dallas is an extremely dynamic program and leads to many different careers in the health care field.

**"Spanish-speaking physicians are the proverbial bridge in this predicament and the most critical piece of health care communication for Hispanics who opt to neglect their health because they feel alienated by the medical system. It is our responsibility to address the desperate for health providers who understand the words and problems of the Hispanic community in Texas,"** urged Rep. Roberto Alonzo.



## Nov. 2015 Ballot: Proposition 3

Of the seven proposed amendments to be submitted for voter approval at the general election on Tuesday November 3, 2015, Proposition 3 would repeal the requirement that certain statewide elected officials reside in Austin, state capital, during their term in office. This proposition would remove a requirement that is no longer necessary.

Requiring elected state officials to reside in the capital only made sense when the Constitution was adopted because traveling to Austin in 1876 might have taken several days for those that lived elsewhere. Due to advances in transportation and technology, this requirement is obsolete. State officials are now able to travel to Austin easily or manage their duties while living in another part of the state.



**Rep. Roberto Alonzo received the "Friendship of County Government" Award" for his work during the 84th Legislative Session.**

**During the 90th Anniversary celebration of Sunset High school Rep. Roberto Alonzo met with many SHS alumni and supportive Oak Cliff residents.**



**Over the past 90 years Sunset High School has paved the way for success of many graduates including Oak Cliff veterinarian Dr. Don Houston, c/o 1954, and Oak Cliff lawyer Kayo Mullins, c/o 1970. (both pictured here)**

