Dear Residents of House District 115,

Halfway through the 86th legislative session and I have had the opportunity to work with representatives from both sides of the aisle on policies that has set the foundation for a successful legislative session. As bills begin to be heard on the House floor I hope to continue to hear from constituents on issues that matter most to you. Let’s work together to effectively serve House District 115!

Your representative,
Julie Johnson

March Report
Published April 1, 2019

Legislative Updates

We have officially passed the halfway point of the legislative session this month. So far, our office has filed 32 pieces of legislation, joint-authored 15 bills, and co-authored 30 bills. The legislation that Rep. Johnson’s has authored and signed onto include access to care, property tax relief, transparency requirements and network adequacy for insurance companies, rights for sexual assault survivors, and electronic voter registration. As we progress through the days, committee hearings and floor debates are getting longer. We’ve already hit some major legislative milestones, with many more to come as we get closer to the close of session.
Budget Day

On March 27th, the House of Representatives took up debate on the House Bill 1, which is the General Appropriations bill that funds the state for the 2020 and 2021 Fiscal Years. Members have the opportunity to offer amendments to HB 1 during the debate. This session, members filed over 300 amendments. Rep Johnson was successfully able to add an amendment to the bills that protect Medicaid recipients from having their services cut as the result of cost-saving efforts. Debate on the floor went into the late evening and in the end, the House voted unanimously to pass the budget. HB 1 is now headed to the Senate, where Senators will get their turn to debate and amend the bill.

Bill Highlight

HB 1832 and HB 2630 is intended to play a significant role in improving access to healthcare. Texans shouldn’t have to self-diagnosis out of fear that their healthcare services won’t be covered, HB 1832 would prohibit health insurance companies from implementing any practice that makes coverage for emergency services dependent upon a final diagnosis. When an individual is undergoing a surgery, the last thing they should have to deal with is a surprise bill because of an inadequate record of in-network physicians. House Bill 2630 would require health plan online directories to indicate the network status of all physicians with each in-network facility.

Bill Movement

In the month of March, Rep. Johnson laid out six of the bills she filed in the Committee on Public Health and the Committee on Insurance. In Public Health, Rep. Johnson presented two bills to committee members, one of which would increase access for women that are auto-enrolled into the state’s Healthy Texas Women Program by providing them with information on what services are eligible to receive and where they can find a provider. The four bills Rep. Johnson presented to Insurance Committee members dealt with removing unnecessary and burdensome prior-authorizations. We heard from experts from the American College of Emergency Physicians, Texas Hospital Association, The Texas Society of Anesthesiologists, the Texas Medical Association, and many more on why the legislation is important for Texans. To track all of Rep. Johnson’s legislation, visit https://capitol.texas.gov/.

Representative Johnson laying out HB2028 and HB2029 before House Committee on Public Health. HB2028 and HB2029 seeks to close healthcare coverage gaps for new mothers following birth.
Student Artist Highlight

I am honored to host artwork from high school students from across the district in my Capitol Office. Each month we will highlight a few artists and their work displayed in Austin. In this newsletter, enjoy the works of student artists, and if you or your school is interested in showcasing artwork, please reach out to our District Director, Sarah Slamen, at sarah.slamen@house.texas.gov.

Our March artist is:

Bayli Brown

The artist is a 10th grade student from R.L. Turner High School, under the guidance of teacher Alicia Bearden.

Thank you to our student artist for sharing creative talents!
Ink and graphite pencil artwork by Bayli Brown

Marker artwork by Bayli Brown

HD115 in Austin
Rep. Johnson meeting with City Square, a non-profit organization that fight the causes and effects of poverty through service, advocacy and friendship.

Rianne, a special Olympics athlete, interned at Rep. Johnson's office for a day.
Meeting with members of Texas Challenge Academy.

Office of Rep. Johnson at Public Education Rally

Team Julie in District
Rep. Johnson at Coppell Town Hall with mayors from Coppell, Farmers Branch, Irving, and Carrollton. (From left.)

With members of Texas Municipal Police Association and Dallas Hispanic Firefighters

Upcoming Events

Austin

- Mondays: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee Hearings
- Tuesdays: Insurance Committee Hearings
- April 3rd: Floor debate on HB 3, school finance bill
- April 5th: Speaker’s Reunion Day
- April 11th: Coppell ISD Day at the Capitol
- April 26th: Texas Autism Advocacy Day