



Dear Friends,

Happy Spring — and Happy Easter — to you and yours! I am sending this update from the State Capitol — the last thing I do before I head home for the long weekend.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As promised, I have been working diligently — around the clock — with my colleagues in the Texas House to ask the tough questions, to get the right answers and to find the best solutions to ensure that what happened last month surrounding Winter Storm Uri never happens again in the Lone Star State. I am happy to report that this week the Texas House voted on and passed multiple bills in response to the storm, including multiple legislative proposals that were the direct result of communications and suggestions from YOU, the citizens we are elected to serve. These important reforms, all of which I helped craft and ultimately voted for, help prioritize the interests of consumers, improve communication between electrical entities and state and local governments, and help make our electrical grid more secure and reliable and prepared to handle the scorching Texas summers and the possibly shockingly frigid Texas winters. I encourage you to dive in to each bill for complete details, but here is a brief run down of each one.

House Bill 10: Reforming ERCOT and Boosting Accountability

After learning that many of the ERCOT board members were making decisions for Texans while residing out of state, like you, I was furious. HB 10 ensures that future ERCOT board members have a personal stake here by requiring them to live in Texas. This bill also creates 5 board positions which are appointed by the Governor, Lt. Governor and speaker. Importantly, one ERCOT position will specifically be reserved for a citizen-stakeholder, in order to ensure the active representing of residential consumer interests.

House Bill 11: Weatherizing Facilities

The most obvious problem we saw with the failure of our electrical grid was that it was simply not prepared, technically speaking, to handle the extended frigid temperatures and precipitation. HB 11 requires the winterization of our generation, transmission and distribution facilities so that they're better equipped and ready handle extreme cold AND extreme heat. Importantly, the Texas House will be discussing various funding mechanisms and strategies in the days ahead to ensure the substantial costs associated with making these

vital winterization investments are not placed on the backs of Texas' citizens. We can do this – and I am confident we will!

House Bill 12: Promoting Better Communication

The lack of communication – or more clearly – the lack of honest, transparent and frank communication, was a major source of frustration for many of us during the storm. HB 12 authorizes the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to establish a statewide disaster alert system to alert consumers of widespread power outages and provide the critical information you need, expect, demand and deserve to make informed decisions for your families and businesses.

House Bill 13: Improving Coordination

HB 13 establishes the Texas Energy Disaster Reliability Council. This council will ensure the efficient flow of electricity to natural gas facilities and natural gas to electric generators – two things that are crucial to providing electricity to Texans.

House Bill 16: Defending Ratepayers

Protects consumers from outrageous electric bills by ensuring that any future pricing volatility seen in Texas' electricity market during disasters are not passed on to the consumer.

House Bill 17: Empowering Consumers

Ensures that homeowners, builders and business have the power to decide how to best meet their energy needs by preserving customer choice and access to energy sources in Texas.

COVID UPDATES

COVID-19 Vaccine Update: The Department of State Health Services officially launched their [Texas Public Health Vaccine Scheduler](https://www.getthevaccine.dshs.texas.gov) this week. Texas residents can visit [getthevaccine.dshs.texas.gov](https://www.getthevaccine.dshs.texas.gov) to create a profile that includes their contact information, demographic details, and preferred time of day and days of the week for an appointment. Within a day, people eligible to be vaccinated (all adults 16 and older) will be matched with the next available appointment within their home county and preferred times. If none are available, the scheduler will continue to search for appointments as new clinics are scheduled and contact individuals when they have an appointment.

I got my first vaccine this week – and encourage you to do the same. Of course, in Texas it will always be voluntary, never mandatory!

FEMA to Help Pay Funeral Costs for COVID-19 Related Deaths: Beginning yesterday, April 1, FEMA will provide financial disaster assistance for COVID-19 related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. The assistance is limited to a maximum of \$9000.00 per

funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per application. To find out details and how to apply, visit [this website](#).

TRACKING MY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

If you're interested, I want to encourage you to follow my legislative agenda at the following link:

<https://capitol.texas.gov/reports/report.aspx?ID=author&LegSess=87R&Code=A2475>

At that link, you can track each of the bills that I've filed this session as they progress through the legislative process. As you'll note, many of the bills that I've authored are already making their way through the Committee process, including bills relating to healthcare, education, criminal and civil justice, public safety, the protection of our fundamental rights and liberties and the strengthening of the Texas economy. Several of those bills should be on the House floor very soon for debate, deliberation and a vote before going to the Senate for consideration. And many more of the bills I've authored will be coming up for Committee hearings and votes in the coming weeks as we head down the home stretch of the last 60 days of the legislative session.

My legislative agenda is based on my own values and principles AND, importantly, on feedback, input and advice from you, the great people of House District 67 whom I am elected to serve and advocate for. Over the next several weeks, I look forward to working tirelessly to get many of those important bills over the finish line and signed in to law.

Again, Happy Easter to you and yours. If there's one thing I want you to take away and remember from this e-mail, it's this: Easter really does mean something. In fact, Easter means everything. The cross is the ultimate display of God's love for us. And the empty tomb is the ultimate display of His power over sin and death and hell.

I'm not ashamed to say it, and I never will be: The greatest news this world has ever seen or heard is the news of the empty tomb. The problems of this world grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace. I pray that the reality and the truth of Easter hits home for you, for me, and for all of us like never before.

God Bless you. And God Bless Texas!

All My Best,



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