



Dear Friends,

There's only 45 days until the 87th Legislative session comes to a close and we are busy passing good, commonsense legislation. Here's the rundown...

### **TEXAS HOUSE TAKES A BIG STAND ON CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY**

Yesterday, for nearly 7 hours, the House debated HB 1927 by Representative Matt Schaefer, which I am proud to co-author. HB 1927 allows law-abiding citizens age 21 and older to carry a handgun for personal protection and the protection of their family. I think it's important to let you know what this bill does NOT do. First, if a person is prohibited from possessing a handgun they will still be prohibited from carrying a handgun. Second, this bill maintains the background checks that are already required when a gun is purchased at a retail store. Importantly, this bill also maintains the current penal code of penalties. Any law that makes it a crime to remove your handgun in public and threaten or assault someone will continue to be enforced. Likewise, business and private property owners will retain their right to exclude handguns on their property in the same manner they do today. This bill upholds our Constitutional Rights and I was pleased to vote FOR it and see it pass the Texas House.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**HOUSE BILL 3598:** Wednesday I laid out HB 3598, "Lauren & CJ's Law", which will increase the minimum imprisonment time to 5 years for people convicted of intoxicated manslaughter. We heard powerful and heartbreaking testimony from the parents of Lauren and CJ Davis who were both struck and killed by a drunk driver while walking across the street on the way to a Dallas Mavericks game. This family waited three and half long years before any sentence would be handed down and the drunk driver, who had previous DWI's, would only serve 120 days in county jail. When a life is lost due to another's reckless, dangerous and illegal behavior, we must ensure that the punishment fits the crime and justice is served. I look forward to the House Committee on Corrections to vote this bill out favorably and for it to head to the House floor for a vote.

**HOUSE BILL 3659:** I was also able to layout HB 3659 to the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence. This important piece of legislation seeks to protect doctors, hospitals, nursing homes, schools and businesses from the onslaught of frivolous lawsuits

in regards to COVID-19 liability. Let me be clear - this does not apply to the bad actors. HB 3659 sets standards that allow lawsuits to proceed if the plaintiff can prove intentional, willful or wanton misconduct. The ultimate goal of this legislation is to protect well-meaning health care providers, first responders, large and small businesses, religious institutions, non-profit entities, and educational institutions from frivolous lawsuits related to COVID-19 and to support the heroes that have been on the frontline fighting this pandemic from the beginning when supplies were non-existent and the affects were still unknown. Importantly, this legislation allows Texas to continue reopening safely and will bolster our global-leading economy by giving businesses the assurance that they will not be forced to spend their hard earned resources fighting off frivolous lawsuits.

### **SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!**

Beginning today, my office is now accepting applications for the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP), an educational scholarship opportunity for a deserving Texas student aspiring to serve through military service. I am extremely honored to be able to play a small role in this process by nominating a deserving leader from our community.

The 81st Texas Legislature created the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP) to encourage students to participate in Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs at Texas institutions of higher education. The program also encourages students to become members of the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air Force National Guard, or commissioned officers in any branch of the armed services of the United States. Each year the Texas Governor and Lieutenant Governor may appoint up to two students, and each Texas State Senator and State Representative may appoint one student.

In order to be considered for a TASSP award, a student enrolling in higher education directly from high school must meet two of the following four academic criteria at the time of application:

- ✓ Be on track to graduate, or has graduated high school and complete the curriculum requirements of the Distinguished Level of Achievement Plan, or the International Baccalaureate Program (IB);
- ✓ Have a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale;
- ✓ Achieve a college readiness score on the SAT (1070) or ACT (23);
- ✓ Be ranked in the top one-third of the prospective high school graduating class.

Students must be enrolled in a college or university in the Fall 2020/Spring 2021 academic year in order to be nominated for the TASSP during the current nomination cycle. Upon meeting the aforementioned requirements, all interested candidates must apply by Close of Business on July 31, 2021 in order to be considered for a nomination. Additional details outlining the TASSP application process may be found [here](#).

### **DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT!**

This past weekend I was able take part in Congressman Van Taylor's Congressional Youth Advisory Council. It's always great to see young people interested and getting involved in government, policy and leadership. I was able to discuss what is happening in the State Legislature and answer questions from this bright group of high school students. Thank you Congressman Taylor for allowing me to join!



And then I threw on my dad hat and cheered on Landry at this first baseball game of the season! Go Riverdogs!



Have a great weekend friends!

All My Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jeff Leach'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## Jeff Leach

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