



Dear Friends,

As we head in to the final days of the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative session, I wanted to thank each and every one of you for helping make this one of the strongest and most productive sessions we've had since I took office nearly 10 years ago. Did we get everything done that we wanted? No, but that doesn't negate all the good that *was* accomplished. Here's a rundown of some huge legislative victories this session...

**Election Integrity:** I was proud to vote for and be a co-author for Senate Bill 7 to ensure Texas elections are secure, trustworthy and reliable. I feel strongly that every single legal voter in Texas should have full and complete access to the ballot box. And every illegal voter in Texas should know that our laws will hold them accountable. This bill will accomplish both of these goals by providing both access and justice at the ballot box. This shouldn't be a partisan issue - but instead should be an issue that unites every freedom-loving American who wants to work together to ensure the highest levels of trust in our institutions and in our elected leaders.

**ERCOT Reform:** The electricity crisis that Texans experienced in February was unacceptable and it is up to us, the Texas Legislature, to ensure that never happens again. Many bills were passed to address the weaknesses and issues encountered during Winter Storm Uri and here's a few of them: SB 3 which will require power generators and transmission lines to weatherize their equipment to be prepared for extreme hot or cold temperatures; HB 16 bans variable rate plans that resulted in exorbitant bills for residential consumers; and HB 17 which ensures that consumers have a choice in which energy source they want to use.

**Fight for Innocent Life:** Since I took office, the protection of innocent life - from the womb to the tomb - has been one of my biggest priorities. During my time in the Texas House of Representatives, I have aggressively supported and advocated for laws that will not only safeguard the right to life but also work to promote a culture of life in the Lone Star State. SB 8 - The Texas Heartbeat Act - is the strongest Pro-Life bill ever passed in Texas and because it is uniquely and strategically drafted, I believe it will create new legal and legislative opportunities for us to boldly advance the cause of life not only here in the Lone Star State, but nationwide. Additionally, we passed HB 1280, the abortion "trigger bill" which will outlaw abortion in Texas once Roe v Wade is overturned.

**Safeguarding the Second Amendment:** I believe strongly that securing and safeguarding your fundamental rights and liberties is our most important duty. And that includes your

right to defend yourself and your family. There is much mis-information about this bill and I believe it is important to clear up the facts. Notably, the bill does not change any laws regarding who can or who cannot carry a gun in Texas. Further, the bill makes no changes to current background check laws. In short, the bill simply removes the requirement for an individual obtain a license or permit from the state in order to lawfully carry a handgun on his or her person. As a fierce advocate of the Second Amendment and strong believer that we have a God-given right to defend ourselves and our families, I voted in favor of House Bill 1927. Once the Governor signs this bi-partisan bill in to law, which I believe he will do very soon, Texas will become the 22nd state to allow the carry of firearms without a permit.

**Religious Liberty:** I was proud to author and pass SJR 27, a resolution that will amend the Texas constitution to prohibit any government official from ever closing our churches or houses of worship. While religious services in Texas were designated as essential throughout the COVID-19 crisis we saw some political subdivisions attempt to force parishes and places of worship to shut down or place such severe restrictions on religious gatherings that they were effectively banned. This amendment will be offered in a statewide proposition election this November to be voted on by the people of Texas. We also passed HB 1239, by my friend and colleague Representative Matt Shaheen, further protecting our right to worship. After all, in both times of calm and in times of crisis, we shouldn't limit the Church--we should unleash the Church.

**Protecting Small Businesses:** This session I was proud to carry one of Governor Abbott's emergency items, Senate Bill 6, which will provide COVID liability protections for businesses, schools, churches, medical professionals and more. This bill was born out of countless hours of communications with the people of Texas – employers and employees, pastors and teachers, doctors and nurses. Texans have fought hard to recover from the COVID pandemic, they shouldn't also have to fight frivolous and abusive lawsuits.

**Broadband for All:** If there is anything that going through the last year has taught us, it's the importance of having a strong internet connection. From working at home, virtual school and tele-medicine, we have seen major weaknesses and a great need for all people to have easy and reliable access to the internet. We were proud to pass House Bill 5 which will create the Broadband Development Office to help prepare a state broadband plan, produce a broadband development map and administer the broadband development program. This is just the first step in closing the gap for the many Texans that lack access or face barriers to the subscription of broadband.

## **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

I hope you and your family are able to get out and enjoy some quality time together this weekend while we honor and remember the men and women who gave the ultimate

sacrifice serving our great country. There are many events going around Collin County this weekend and I wanted to share a few ideas with you:

**Legacy Hall Backyard Party:** If you haven't had a chance to check out Legacy Hall in Plano, this weekend would be a great time to go. They are having live music all weekend long and there are many food options to choose from. Find out more [here](#).

**Farmer's Market at Granite Park Boardwalk:** Come shop the freshest produce around on Sunday, May 30th and then stay and have lunch or dinner at any of the great restaurants on the Boardwalk. Find out more [here](#).

**Concerts by the Creek:** Grab some dinner and a picnic blanket and enjoy some live music at Watters Creek on Saturday evening. There's even a playground for the kids to run around! Find out more [here](#).

As always, if I can help you in any way, please reach out to my office!

All My Best,



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