

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas House of Representatives



May 17, 2019

Friends,

We are in the final stretch of the 86th legislative session. There is still a lot of work to be done before the house adjourns Sine Die on May 27th. The House is currently on the floor and is spending long hours working through legislation that is important to our state. If you would like to check in on what is happening in your legislature, you can watch the House live by visiting <https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/> or check in on your Senators at http://tlcsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=5&event_id=3096.



Discussing legislation important to Dallas County with Rep. Eric Johnson

Combatting Human Trafficking

I was proud to support SB 1257 this week to strengthen Texas' efforts to combat human trafficking by ensuring all state and local resources were utilized in these cases. Tragically, Texas has a large number of trafficking victims and many of these cases are not prosecuted. The Office of the Attorney General has a Human Trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime section, as well as experience in a wide variety of legal matters and enforcement powers and the bill will take advantage of these resources to combat this horrific crime.

The jurisdictional authority granted to the Attorney General by this bill will help ensure that all cases are fully investigated and prosecuted and help bring statewide, uniform enforcement of the law. The bill will give the Attorney General concurrent jurisdiction in multi-jurisdictional cases because cases that cross county lines can be especially complicated and can require resources and expertise not available in every county. The goal of the bill is to encourage cooperation and the handling of all cases appropriately and to ease victims' trauma by having prosecution in one county rather than multiple locations.

National Police Week

This week is National Police Week. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to every law enforcement officer across our great state and to their families. Peace officers put their lives on the line to protect our communities, and Texas is facing a critical shortage of officers. This week the House passed SB 16 to create a student loan repayment assistance program for future peace officers, which helps address the growing shortage of officers in the state.

Higher Education

This week in the House Higher Education Committee we voted out Senate Bill 25, by Senator Royce West. SB 25 seeks to facilitate the transfer, academic progress, and timely graduation of students in public higher education. This legislation will continue to encourage cooperation between our higher education institutions and our community colleges and likely reduce costs and uncertainty that often complicate transfer credits for students across Texas. In our district this week, the University of Texas at Dallas celebrated more than 3,900 students in their spring

commencement ceremonies, awarding the most bachelor's degrees in its history. As we approach the University's 50th year anniversary this September, I could not be prouder of my alma mater's achievements!

Visitors from the District

On Thursday we were visited by two families from the city of Sachse who traveled to their state capitol as part of American Heritage Girls Day. These young ladies are part of a program that focuses on character and leadership development, dedicated to building women of integrity through service to their community. Keep up the hard work!



The Abercrombie and Saida families both from Sachse visited the capitol to celebrate American Heritage Girls Day.

Sincerely,

Angie Chen Button

If you would like to be added or removed from this mailing, please email Angie.Button@house.texas.gov.