



Terry Canales

CAPITOL UPDATE

Fall 2013

Texas House • Distrito 40



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



State Representative
Distrito 40

Queridos amigos y vecinos,

Es un honor y un privilegio servir a Cámara de Representantes del Distrito 40 y Condado de Hidalgo en la Cámara de Representantes de Texas. Este boletín sirve como una actualización de los importantes progresos realizados durante la Sesión Legislativa 83, y en días posteriores de la Primera, Segunda y Terceras sesiones. Estas decisiones tendrán un impacto en usted y sus vecinos en los años por venir.

Mi mayor orgullo este período de sesiones, ha sido trabajar con colegas para crear una nueva institución Universidad de Texas, incluyendo una nueva escuela de medicina, en el Valle del Río Grande. La delegación legislativa de Texas Sur trabajó incansablemente con el fin de garantizar la creación de la nueva Universidad y de la facultad de medicina, de manera que los residentes del Condado de Hidalgo y a todos en el sur de Texas se beneficiaría de la aprobación de esta ley histórica. Esta ley va a crear oportunidades de empleo, mejorar la calidad de la atención de la salud, y que la enseñanza superior sea más accesible a todos los tejanos. Como la segunda mayor Universidad Hispana en los Estados Unidos, la nueva escuela transformara radicalmente al sur de Texas en una de las principales regiones de oportunidades económicas. Personalmente, es humillante que ha sido el autor de la legislación que traerá prosperidad duradera a los residentes del Distrito 40.

Este período de sesiones, fui nombrado por el Presidente de la Cámara de representantes ser parte del Comité de Justicia Criminal, en el cual se centra en las facturas, las políticas y los problemas que afectan directamente derecho penal y el sistema judicial. Un honor para mí haber promovido una legislación que crea la justicia y la eficiencia en nuestro sistema de justicia. Una de mis cuentas, HB 2090, garantiza que los tejanos no pueden firmar una confesión penal sin ser capaz de leer o entender el idioma por escrito. Esta legislación es un ejemplo de sentido común de las reformas que benefician a los ciudadanos del condado de Hidalgo.

En la 83.ª Sesión Legislativa, hemos trabajado duro para recuperar recortes y mejorar nuestro estado de transporte, atención de la salud y las necesidades de agua. Yo voté a favor de restaurar \$3.4 mil millones en fondos para la educación pública y invertir \$2 mil millones para crear una infraestructura de abastecimiento de agua en necesidad de tiempos de sequía. Además, soy coautor de HB 5, que reduce las pruebas estandarizadas en las escuelas, y permite los estudiantes más flexibilidad a la hora de elegir las clases que les ayudara para la carrera profesional que han elegido.

Aunque estamos conscientes que hay mucho más que hacer acerca de los fondos de educación pública, y al mismo tiempo seguir con la expansión de seguro médico para nuestros Tejanos, estoy orgulloso de haber formado parte de esta legislación que apoyo aprobar estos beneficios que ayudaran a nuestra comunidad y los residentes del Condado de Hidalgo.

Muy atentamente,

Representative Terry Canales



COMMITTEES: Criminal Jurisprudence; Energy Resources



Rep. Canales speaking on the importance of education for South Texas



Terry Canales

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★ What Your Representative's Office Can Do For You: ★

The day to day operations of a legislative office are never set in stone, but the primary goal is to serve constituents. From flying flags over the Texas Capitol to resolving an issue with a state agency, the Capitol and District offices of Representative Terry Canales are here to help you with issues small and large.

- If you are having difficulty working with a state agency, please let us help to ensure your voice is heard, and your matter is considered promptly and fairly.
- If you have an idea to improve state government, contact the Capitol office to determine the feasibility of new legislation
- If you are visiting Austin as an individual or as part of a group, contact our office in advance to arrange a special tour of the Texas Capitol and other historic location around the Capitol complex.

The offices can be reached by email at Terry.Canales@house.state.tx.us, or by phone at (956) 383-0860 in Edinburg and (512) 463-0426 in Austin.

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TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



State Representative
District 40

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is an honor and privilege to serve House District 40 and Hidalgo County in the Texas House of Representatives. This newsletter serves as an update on the important progress made during the 83rd Legislative Session, and the subsequent days of the First, Second, and Third Called Sessions. These decisions will have an impact on you and your neighbors for years to come.

My proudest achievement this session has been working with colleagues to create a new University of Texas institution, including a new medical school, in the Rio Grande Valley. The South Texas legislative delegation worked tirelessly in order to guarantee the creation of the new University and medical school, so that the residents of Hidalgo County and all of South Texas would benefit by the passage of this landmark legislation. This legislation will create job opportunities, raise the quality of health care, and make higher education more accessible to all South Texans. As the second largest Hispanic University in the United States, the new school will drastically transform South Texas into a leading region for economic opportunity. It is personally humbling to have been an author of legislation that will bring lasting prosperity to the residents of District 40.

This session, I was appointed by the Speaker of the House to serve on the Committee on Criminal Justice, which focuses on bills, policies, and issues that directly impact criminal law and the judicial system. It is an honor to have sponsored legislation that creates fairness and efficiency in our Justice system. One of my bills, HB 2090, guarantees that Texans cannot sign a criminal confession without being able to read or understand the language the confession is written in. This legislation is an example of the common-sense reforms which will benefit the citizens of Hidalgo County.

In the 83rd Legislative Session, we worked hard to restore funding cuts and improve our state's transportation, health care, and water needs. I voted to restore \$3.4 billion in funding for our public education and to spend \$2 billion to create a state-water infrastructure that will meet Texas' urgent water needs in times of drought. Additionally, I coauthored HB 5 which reduces the amount of burdensome standardized testing in the classroom and allows students more flexibility in choosing classes that work towards their chosen career path.

While much more work needs to be done, from increasing public education funding to expanding health care insurance to all Texans, I am proud of the legislation that was passed which will benefit the community and the residents of Hidalgo County.

Very truly yours,

Representative Terry Canales



COMMITTEES: Criminal Jurisprudence; Energy Resources



Rep. Canales speaking at press conference concerning the filing of landmark legislation to create a new "Super University" in South Texas

FIRST MEDICAL SCHOOL IN SOUTH TEXAS

Canales played a key role in personally securing the majority of votes in the 150-member House of Representatives to pass Senate Bill 24, by Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, McAllen, which will merge UT-Pan American and UT-Brownsville, and with it, create a full-fledged UT medical school with a major presence in Edinburg.

"Tens of thousands of high-paying jobs, directly and indirectly linked to Senate Bill 24, will be created over the next few years as a result of the construction, operation, and maintenance of a UT medical school in the Valley, including here in House District 40, where Edinburg will have a major campus," said Canales. "Equally important, SB 24 gives UT-Pan American access to the \$13 billion Permanent University Fund for the first time. The funds can be used for major construction projects, including a much-needed \$100 million Science Building at UTPA and construction of the UT medical school in Hidalgo County and throughout the Valley."

BRINGING HIDALGO COUNTY COURTS INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

Currently no parties in a criminal case can electronically file court documents in Hidalgo County. Filing physical documents is expensive, time consuming and environmentally wasteful. District Clerks are burdened with the inordinate amounts of paper stacking up on their desks. Representative Canales authored and passed HB 349 which will bring Hidalgo county into the 21st century and set a precedent for Texas. Hidalgo County will be the first county in Texas to implement criminal e-filing.

PROTECTING RURAL SOUTH TEXAS FROM FIRES

In 2007, state lawmakers passed a bill requiring fire hydrants to be painted black if they failed to pump 250 gallons of water per minute. This legislation produced a terrible unintended consequence. Fearing lawsuits from displaced homeowners if firefighters opened up their system's hydrants only to see them run dry, private utilities started painting all of their hydrants black, even those that met the minimum standard.

Canales introduced and passed HB 1768 that extends the same legal safeguard provided to municipal governments if a hydrant doesn't provide adequate water supply in a fire emergency. This legislation will help provide much needed fire protection in rural areas of South Texas.

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

The U.S. Constitution protects individuals from being compelled in a criminal case to be a witness against himself or herself. Current Texas law does not, however, require a signed written statement to be in a language that the accused can read or understand.

As a result, an individual who does not read or comprehend English could potentially sign a statement in English without understanding its contents, increasing the chances of an erroneous conviction. This contravenes the basic tenants of our justice system and runs contrary to the constitutional protection against being compelled to be a witness against oneself.

Representative Canales introduced and passed into law HB 2090 which will require a written statement that is signed by the accused to be made in a language that he or she can read or understand before it can be admitted as evidence in a criminal proceeding.



Rep. Canales and Rep. Perez discuss the merits of the first medical school in South Texas



Rep. Canales confers with the House Parliamentarian

A NEW STATE WATER PLAN

HB 4 will ensure Texas has a reliable water supply for the next 50 years by promoting conservation and innovative reuse. \$2 billion investment will fund up to \$30 billion in projects over the next 50 years. These measures will help address the increased demand population growth "Water is an essential part of everyone's life, and ensuring adequate supplies means continued job creation, stronger communities and healthier families for decades to come," Gov. Perry said. "HB 4 will help secure our water supplies for generations, even through rapid population and economic growth, by creating new funds that will support local and regional projects and lower the cost of issuing bonds for much-needed water projects."wth will have on our water needs now and into the future.

HONORING MIGRANT FARMWORKERS

In recognition of the vital roles played by the estimated two million to three million seasonal and migrant farmworkers in the country - including more than 131,000 in the state - the Texas House of Representatives designated April 23, 2013 as Migrant Farmworker Day at the Capitol.

HONORED LOCAL LEADERS

Honored prominent constituents such as Mayor Pro Tempore Noe Garza of Edinburg for his legacy of service to the city of Edinburg, Roberto Pulido for his accomplishments in the music industry, Judge Noe Gonzalez of the 370th District Court in Hidalgo County for his professional achievements and civic contributions, and David Chavana for his efforts to promote health and fitness among his fellow Edinburg residents.

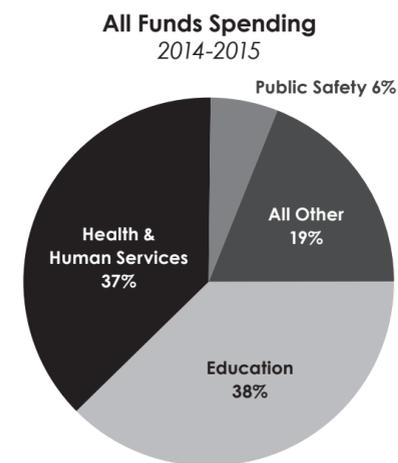
TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT

Government is of the people, by the people, and for the people. Therefore, transparency is essential to having a well-functioning government. While our public officials and public workers do a great job running our state, all too often we hear about political corruption. To help bring transparency back into politics and restore Texans' faith in government, I proudly joint-authored HB 1422 with Representative Charlie Geren. This bill requires lobbyists to disclose their involvement in political campaigns. A lobbyist would be required to reveal all income that comes from campaign funds or political consulting services.



Rep. Canales meeting with members of the Magic Valley Coop in his Capitol Office

STATE OF TEXAS BUDGET BREAKDOWN



Rep. Canales speaking at bill hearing for HB 1000 which creates a new university in South Texas within The University of Texas System

INCREASING STATE TROOPER SALARIES

State troopers choose to put their lives on the line every day to protect public safety and should not be overlooked or forgotten. Unfortunately, state trooper salaries are not competitive with salaries for other law enforcement departments in Texas, which has created a recruitment problem for the Department of Public Services. To fix this problem, I co-authored HB 2100 which would allow DPS to more effectively recruit state troopers by allowing the department to increase their salaries. This law both increases safety in Texas and gives our state troopers the respect they deserve.

HONORING OUR NATION'S HEROES

The Purple Heart Trail was established in 1992 by the Military Order of the Purple Heart to be a symbolic trail throughout all 50 states to commemorate and honor all men and women who have been wounded or killed in combat while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. I joined Representative "Mando" Martinez in co-authoring a bill that establishes a Purple Heart Trail in South Texas. HB 2424 designates part of U.S. Highway 83 Business in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties as a portion of the national Purple Heart Trail. Brave soldiers who have been given the Purple Heart Medal have placed themselves in harm's way for the good of our country. This bill appropriately honors their courage and sacrifice.

TEACHING STUDENTS FINANCIAL LITERACY

I worked with Representative Farney to co-author HB 2662, which requires

high schools to provide a personal financial literacy elective class. This law will better equip Texas students with real-world skills that are so important to becoming financially secure. Many Texans have poor credit, do not save, and are in excessive debt. I truly believe that education will help Texans improve their financial situations.

IMPROVING SCHOOL FLEXIBILITY

Texas schools waste too much time, money, and resources teaching to standardized tests instead of classroom instructions. Over-testing our students is not the way to build a smart, educated workforce. To help restore teaching flexibility in Texas Schools, I co-authored HB 5. This bill decreases burdensome testing requirements by reducing the number of end-of-course assessments. Students will now be required to pass 5—not 15—tests in order to earn a diploma: Algebra I, English I and II, biology and U.S. history. The bill also would give students more flexibility in course options. All students must take a "foundational plan" and then they can choose additional "endorsements" in: business and industry; arts and humanities; science, technology, engineering and math, called STEM. This allows students more flexibility in choosing classes pertinent to their career path. I believe HB 5 strikes a balance between our need for rigorous academic standards and a student's need for flexibility, and between accountability and an appropriate level of testing in the classroom.

HONORING STATE TROOPER EDUARDO CHAVEZ

Texas Highway Patrol Trooper Eduardo Chavez was killed in the line of duty in May 2006 on Highway 83 as he drove his patrol vehicle to assist his fellow trooper and brother with a felony narcotics stop. Trooper Chavez



Rep. Canales and Rep. Lewis discuss legislation on the House floor

was an Edinburg native from a law enforcement family, was a three-year veteran of the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas who previously had worked as a sheriff's deputy in Hidalgo County. Law enforcement officers who fall in the line of duty deserve recognition for their service, and a highway memorial allows Texans to acknowledge and pay respect to selfless individuals such as Trooper Chavez who put their lives at risk and sometimes pay the ultimate price to keep us safe. I am honored to joint-author HB 442, which commemorates the life and service of Trooper Eduardo Chavez.