



Terry Canales

ACTUALIZACIÓN DEL CAPITOLIO

Otoño 2021

Distrito 40



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Diputado Terry Canales
Distrito 40

Queridos Vecinos y Amigos,

Muchas gracias por brindarme la oportunidad de representar al Distrito 40 en la Cámara de Representantes del estado de Texas durante la 86ava. Sesión Legislativa. De enero a mayo, mis colegas legisladores y yo, dejamos a un lado nuestras diferencias y nos enfocamos en las cuestiones que son de mayor interés para poder brindar un mejor futuro a los tejanos; entre las cuestiones se incluye la educación, el salario de los maestros, reformas de impuestos a la propiedad y la prevención de inundaciones. Durante esta sesión invertimos \$4.5 billones hacia una reforma educativa transformacional que incluye \$2 billones en aumentos de salarios para maestros, el acceso a programas pre-escolares de tiempo completo y finalmente una 13ava. nomina para los maestros jubilados.

La Legislatura de Texas también hizo una inversión extremadamente importante hacia la educación superior del Valle de Texas. La Universidad de Texas Rio Grande Valley - Escuela de Medicina recibirá \$69 millones del estado, lo que representa un incremento de \$12 millones de la previa sesión legislativa. Esto incluye \$2 millones que fueron otorgados a la universidad para crear un centro completamente nuevo para los estudios de cáncer cervical. No existe mejor equalizador que la educación y estas inversiones hacen posible que los estudiantes del Sur de Texas reciban una educación de primer nivel, que les brinde la oportunidad de poder tener éxito en la vida.

En febrero, el Vocero de la Cámara de Representes del Estado de Texas, Dennis Bonen, me nombro como Presidente del Comité de Transporte de la Casa de Representes, que tiene jurisdicción estatal sobre las carreteras, ferrocarriles, aeropuertos y puertos entre otros. Este nombramiento le brinda al Valle de Texas la oportunidad de tener una voz importante en temas de infraestructura conforme crecen la población y nuestras necesidades de transporte.

Mas de 7,000 proyectos de ley fueron presentados en la 86ava. Sesión Legislativa y los legisladores pasaron horas innumerables deliberando y examinando las propuestas legislativas en un esfuerzo para hacer de Texas un mejor lugar para vivir, crear una familia y tener un negocio propio. Aunque obtuvimos éxito en satisfacer muchas de las necesidades que afectan a los Tejanos, estamos conscientes de que aun queda mucho trabajo por hacer especialmente en temas sobre salud, transporte y desarrollo económico.

Espero y encuentre los siguientes resúmenes útiles. Si usted tiene algún comentario, pregunta o sugerencia no dude en comunicarse con nuestra oficina, su opinión es bienvenida. Nuevamente muchas gracias por brindarme la oportunidad de representarle y ser su voz en La Cámara de Representantes.

Con Cariño,

State Representative Terry Canales



COMMITTEES: Transportation, Chair • International Relations & Economic Development



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 working in the community 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.texas.gov, or by phone at (956) 383-0860 in Edinburg and (512) 463-0426 in Austin.

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Terry Canales

CAPITOL UPDATE

Fall 2021

District 40



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Representative Terry Canales
District 40

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Texas and House District 40 during the 87th Legislative Session. From January through the end of May, the legislature largely set aside differences and focused on the issues that matter to Texans, including expanding Texas' broadband internet infrastructure, increasing transportation funding, expanding access to healthcare, and building a stronger electric grid.

The Texas Legislature also made a substantial investment in higher education for the Rio Grande Valley. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) and the School of Medicine both received substantial increases in funding with UTRGV receiving \$303.9 million and the School of Medicine receiving \$73.8 million. Education is the great equalizer, and these investments make it possible for South Texas students to receive the education they need in order to succeed in life.

In February, I was appointed by the Speaker of the House, Dade Phelan, to serve my second session as Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, which has jurisdiction over our state's highways, railroads, airports, seaports, and more. This leadership position gives the Rio Grande Valley a seat at the table on transportation issues, as our population continues to boom and our transportation needs grow.

In the interim before the legislative session, the Speaker of the House appointed me to serve on the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission, which evaluates our state agencies to make them lean and efficient, while providing all of the necessary services that they perform. This appointment gives my office the opportunity to ensure your tax dollars are spent wisely to achieve the outcomes that our state needs.

More than 6,000 bills were filed in the 87th Legislative Session, and policymakers spent countless hours deliberating and examining the legislative proposals in an effort to make Texas an even better place to live, raise a family, and own a business. While we were successful at meeting many of the unique challenges facing Texans in our limited timeframe, there is always more work to be done, especially in healthcare, education, transportation, and economic development.

I hope that you find these summaries helpful. If you have any comments, concerns, or suggestions, please know that we welcome your feedback. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your voice in the Texas House of Representatives. God bless you, and God bless Texas!

Very truly yours,

State Representative Terry Canales



COMMITTEES: Transportation, Chair • International Relations & Economic Development



87th Legislature



HOUSE BILL 5 - EXPANDING BROADBAND ACCESS

The COVID-19 pandemic has only magnified the need for reliable access to the internet, having shown us all the extent to which connectivity impacts daily life. Many parts of our community do not have access to true high-speed internet, or they can not afford the high monthly cost. My office has been working on broadband internet issues for many years, but the pandemic created new opportunities for collaborative approaches to connectivity issues. Since the pandemic began, we have worked closely with the county commissioners court, area cities, and school districts to study the problem and find solutions.

To this end, Representative Canales joint-authored House Bill 5, which created the Broadband Development Office within the Office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts. The Broadband Development Office will create a statewide plan to expand broadband to all Texans and administer the Broadband Development Program. This new office will be dedicated to building the infrastructure to support high-speed internet for all and help make access more affordable by drawing down federal dollars.



Chairman Canales voting "yes" on legislation on House Floor.

HOUSE BILL 7 - PROTECTING SMALL BUSINESS FROM TAX HIKES

The pandemic has been incredibly disruptive for the Texas workforce. Unemployment insurance has served as an invaluable reprieve to the more than one million Texans who lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic. However, the pandemic-related layoffs caused a significant drain to the state's unemployment compensation fund. To protect Texas's small businesses from massive tax hikes and replenish the state's unemployment insurance fund, Representative Canales

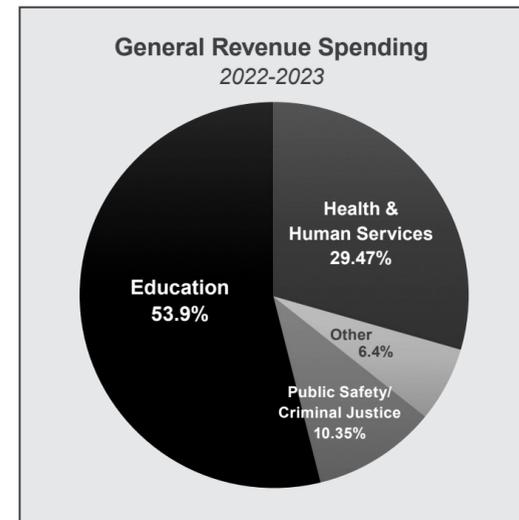
co-authored House Bill 7 to shield our small businesses from disruptive tax increases, providing relief to employers as our state recovers from the Coronavirus Pandemic.

SENATE BILL 827 - CAPPING THE PRICE OF INSULIN

Approximately 1 in 12 Texans have been diagnosed with diabetes. The price of insulin has increased 1,000% over the last 20 years, making it more and more difficult for Texans to afford a major life-saving treatment for those with this terrible illness. The financial and economic toll of the pandemic has left countless diabetic Texans without access to the insulin they need to properly manage the disease. In the recent legislative session, Representative Canales co-sponsored legislation that capped the out-of-pocket price of insulin at \$25 for a 30-day supply. Implementation of a co-pay cap helps alleviate the extreme cost burden on Texans and helps prevent individuals from being forced to ration their insulin supply.

SENATE BILL 22 - COVID-19 PROTECTIONS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

First Responders play an invaluable role in maintaining public safety, transporting ill or injured patients, and providing emergency medical treatment. This is why Representative Canales joint-sponsored Senate Bill 22, which helps ensure our first responders and their families are protected when they contract COVID-19 in the scope of their work. Our first responders have daily job duties that include entering residences, performing public safety functions, and assisting the vulnerable. They keep our communities safe and functioning, and they deserve support when they suffer from the worst impacts of COVID-19.



87th Legislature



BRINGING FUNDS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Education is by far the great equalizer, and for that reason, we worked tirelessly to increase higher education funding for our region. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley saw its state funding increase \$37.7 million from the current biennium for the general academic unit, and by \$4.9 million for the School of Medicine. UTRGV has received the largest formula funding percentage increase of Texas four-year general academic institutions for the 2021-2023 biennium. This is a huge accomplishment for our community and will undoubtedly provide many more students the opportunity to obtain a post-secondary degree. It is an honor to represent the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Edinburg Campus in the Legislature and to advocate for the institution's \$377 million state appropriation.

LEARNING LOSS & SCHOOL FUNDING

During the 2019 legislative session, lawmakers passed a historic school finance bill—known as HB 3—that added \$6.5 billion to Texas public education funding. When the economy took a hit during the pandemic, lawmakers and public-school advocates were concerned that the downturn would mean that the state wouldn't be able to maintain the funding levels created in HB 3. However, stronger-

than-expected revenue estimates and strong advocacy led to a state budget that includes full funding for schools. Aside from maintaining the 2019 school finance formula, lawmakers secured the release of \$5.5 billion of federal coronavirus aid. Districts can apply for funds to cover a range of costs tied to addressing learning loss, such as hiring tutors or awarding stipends to current employees.

FIGHTING FOR LOCAL FUNDS

Last session, I was able to secure a \$5 million state investment in our South Texas International Airport in Edinburg, bringing the state investment in the airport to \$10 million over the past 4 years. I have seen firsthand the growing importance of the airport in Edinburg. More and more flights take off from there, including regional air medical services and operations by the Texas Department of Public Safety, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, and the United States National Guard. When we invest in the South Texas International Airport, we invest in safety and security for the entire South Texas community.

In the recent session, I was proud to help get a \$3.5 million investment through the Texas budget to help fund the Center for Urban Ecology at Quinta Mazatlan, which will be a partnership with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. This funding will expand the impact of the Quinta Mazatlan's efforts to promote birding and conservation of Valley habitat.

CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

I am honored that the Speaker of the House, Dade Phelan, reappointed me to serve as the Chair of the House Committee on Transportation for the second consecutive session. The Transportation Committee has 13 Members and jurisdiction over the state's highway system, railroads, airports, seaports, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV), and more. By the end of the Session, we vetted all 237 bills referred to the Committee, had hearings on 185 of the bills, and passed 67 of them into law.

Additionally, I have been focused on advocating for more transportation infrastructure funding for the Rio Grande Valley (RGV), which has resulted in our region anticipating the allocation of over \$2 billion in transportation infrastructure funds over the next 10 years. This is another significant victory for the Rio Grande Valley that will benefit all RGV residents. In August, the Texas Transportation Commission, the governing body of TxDOT, approved the 2022 Unified Transportation Program (UTP). This program is a statewide infrastructure planning document that will be used to develop Texas' infrastructure for the next decade.

In the committee, I passed several bills that will have a meaningful impact in the RGV. One of the bills signed into law was HB 2219, which reauthorized the state to utilize the Texas Mobility Fund. The Texas Mobility Fund is one of the state's most flexible transportation financing tools, and with HB 2219, Texas now has access to over \$3 billion in new infrastructure revenue. We also passed legislation creating state highway memorial designations for numerous fallen state troopers, including Trooper Moises Sanchez, who was shot and killed in Hidalgo County on August 24, 2019. Another bill we passed was HB 3927, which gives the state additional tools and enforcement powers in cracking down on the illegal use of temporary license plates on vehicles. These pieces of legislation are only a snapshot into the work of the House Committee on Transportation this session. I welcome everyone to visit www.capitol.texas.gov to learn more about the measures we passed into law.



Legislation by Rep. Canales



During the recent legislative session, my staff and I had 41 pieces of legislation sent to the governor with my name on them, including 20 pieces of legislation where I was the primary author or sponsor. Below, we have attempted to summarize some of the most important bills that we worked on for the constituents of District 40 during the 87th Legislative Session.

HB 189 – ENDING GOLDEN PARACHUTES AT TEXAS SCHOOLS

House Bill 189 ended excessive taxpayer funded severance packages—commonly known as golden parachutes—in all Texas public schools. We should not be using taxpayer dollars to fund excessive severance packages for school administrators who quit or are fired from their district. Previously, Texas law only prohibited the practice at Independent School Districts, but this bill applied this prohibition to public charter schools as well.

SB 1334 – INVESTING IN LOCAL PORTS OF ENTRY

Senate Bill 1334 helped our border communities invest in our ports of entry by creating a new funding stream to expand ports across the Texas/Mexico border. Ports of entry within the State of Texas account for over \$750 billion in international trade a year, contributing greatly to our national, state, and local economy. This legislation will help decrease border wait times and ensure goods move more safely and efficiently across the Texas/Mexico border.

SB 2243 – SUPPORTING EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES

Senate Bill 2243 created an exemption from requiring the Texas Transportation Commission's approval for the reconstruction or improvement of existing bridges over the Rio Grande, including the Pharr International Bridge. The expansion of the Pharr International Bridge is important to not only the City of Pharr but also the entire

region. Pharr's port of entry is currently responsible for billions of dollars in trade that benefits our entire state's economy. Expanding the Pharr International Bridge will only amplify these benefits for South Texas.

HJR 99 – AUTHORIZING COUNTIES TO UTILIZE NEW TRANSPORTATION FUNDING SOURCE

House Joint Resolution (HJR) 99 will help counties throughout the state fund transportation projects without raising taxes or fees and without building toll roads. The legislation will allow counties to use transportation reinvestment zones, which are an innovative tool for generating funding by capturing and leveraging the economic growth that results from a transportation project. HJR 99 is a Constitutional Amendment that will be voted on by Texas voters this November 2, 2021.

SB 703 – AGRICULTURE SUNSET BILL

Senate Bill 703, commonly called the "Agriculture Sunset Bill," helps ensure the future of the Texas agriculture industry. From supporting rural infrastructure and hospitals, to managing the state's extensive food assistance programs for schoolchildren and at-risk populations. The Texas Department of Agriculture's (TDA) functions now extend well beyond regulating and promoting the state's \$25 billion agriculture industry. After its review, the Texas Sunset Commission found that TDA served the public good, and accordingly voted to continue the Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, and Prescribed Burning Board for twelve years.



Chair Canales with House Transportation Committee