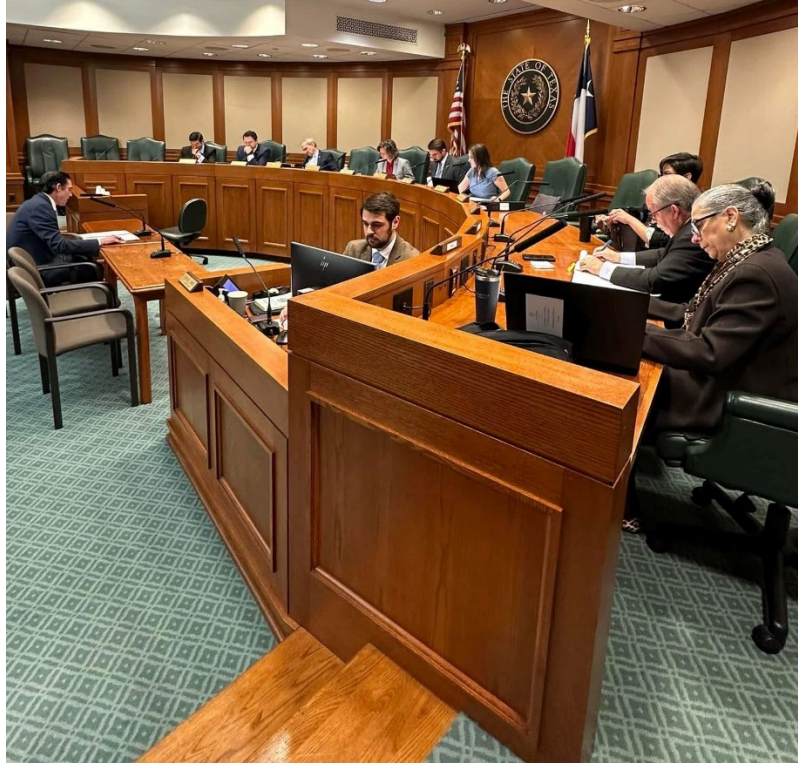


Dear Friends,

Spring is around the corner and things are heating up in the Texas House. This past week, I, along with my fellow colleagues, listened to 22 hours of testimony on House Bill 3 – the hearing lasting from 8am on Tuesday to just after 6am on Wednesday morning. After a quick suit change, I was back in the committee room at 8am to hear our first bills in the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence committee.

We heard from Rep. Mary Gonzalez on [HB 421](#) which addresses the rise of explicit deep fakes using AI technology that are targeting our children as well as [HB 15](#) by Chairman Morgan Meyer which strengthens Texas' business laws to keep corporate decisions in the hands of Texas businesses. Grateful for the testimony and discussion on these important issues.



## **HOUSE BILL 7 – PARENTS’ BILL OF RIGHTS**

As you’ll recall, a couple weeks ago, I told you about [House Bill 6](#) – the Teachers’ Bill of Rights – which is designed to strengthen the authority of teachers in managing classroom discipline while ensuring all students receive a structured and supportive educational experience. I will be laying out HB 6 in committee this Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Likewise, I’m also proud to author and carry [House Bill 7](#). HB 7 strengthens the role of parents in Texas public education by ensuring transparency, accountability, and student safety. This bill gives parents clearer rights and schools clearer responsibilities.

Here are some key points in this legislation:

- The TEA will create and publicly post a document outlining parents’ rights in their child’s education
- Parents will have a right to see a list of library books their child checks out
- Restores the requirement that parents must opt-in for their child to participate in sex education
- Requires that school districts must follow the policies they adopt
- Clarifies the parent grievance process and ensures reasonable timelines for parents to file grievances and for districts to respond
- Clarifies when the TEA can step in to assist families
- Strengthens the “Do Not Hire” (DNH) Registry to better protect students by closing loopholes

- Expands who can be listed on DNH – such as contractors
- Broadens offenses that qualify for DNH placement

Ultimately this legislation gives parents a stronger voice in their child’s education and improves the transparency and trust between parents, schools and state agencies.

### **THIS WEEK IN THE TEXAS CAPITOL**

While this week was a marathon of committee hearings, I always love when I get a moment to meet with our constituents. It was great to welcome homeschool families from HD 67 to the Texas Capitol. Hearing directly from parents and students is invaluable as I represent your voices in the Texas House.



I also got to spend time with my friend Christopher Scott – a man who spent over 13 years in prison for a capital murder he didn’t commit. Since being exonerated and freed, he hasn’t spent his time complaining or seeking revenge, he has instead worked hard to spare others from sharing in the same nightmare. What a blessing it is to partner with him in this important work.



Thank you for staying informed and engaged as we navigate the work of the Texas House. There's a lot more ahead, and I'm committed to keeping you updated every step of the way. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or ideas- please don't hesitate to reach out – your voice shapes the work we do here.

## **NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

### **Floor Schedule:**

- Tuesday: Convene at 10am
- Wednesday: Convene at 10am
- Thursday: Convene at 10am

### **Rep Leach Authored Bill Hearings:**

[House Bill 6](#) – Teachers' Bill of Rights – March 18

[House Bill 762](#) – Removing taxpayer funded "Golden Parachutes" - March 18

[House Bill 748](#) – Relating to the enforceability of NDA's involving child sexual abuse – March 19

(more likely to be announced later today)

All My Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Leach". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" and last name "Leach" clearly distinguishable.

Jeff Leach

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