

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter! After a busy and productive week, I'm excited to head home and spend Easter weekend with my family. It was a BIG week for Texas students, teachers and parents in the Texas House!

### **THE TEXAS TWO STEP**

I was proud to stand with my colleagues and overwhelmingly pass the “Texas Two Step” – [House Bill 2](#) and [Senate Bill 2](#) – because they represent a powerful commitment to our students, teachers, and families. These bills invest boldly in public education with historic funding increases, meaningful teachers pay raises, and critical support for school safety and special education. At the same time, they empower Texas parents with more freedom to choose the best educational path to their children through Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs). Every child in Texas deserves access to a high-quality education that fits their unique needs, and this legislation brings us one step closer to making that a reality for every family.

#### **Highlights:**

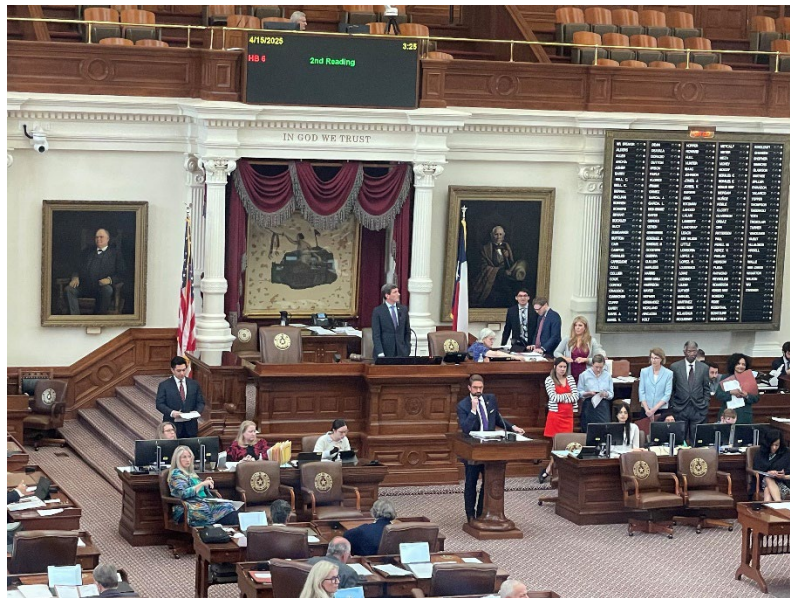
- \$7.7 billion increase in public education funding
- Increases the basic allotment, the state’s share of per-student funding, to \$6,555 – a \$395 increase
- Ties the basic allotment to the growth in property values, yielding automatic increases in public education funding & teacher pay
- Provides \$1.5 billion in new special education funding
- \$750 million in extra incentive pay for high-performing teachers
- Nearly \$1 Billion for rural and mid-size schools
- \$1.5 billion in additional targeted funds for pre-k, bilingual education, reducing achievement gaps and more

- \$1 billion for Educational Savings Accounts to allow Texas families the option to direct state-allocated funds toward customizing their child’s education outside the traditional public school system
- ESA’s prioritized based on a tiered system
  - Students with disabilities from lower-income households
  - Students from low-income households under 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
  - Students from low-income households between 200-500% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
  - Students from households at or above 500% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

### **TEACHERS’ BILL OF RIGHTS – HB 6**

Additionally the Texas House overwhelmingly passed my bill, [House Bill 6](#) - the Teachers’ Bill of Rights. When talking to educators across HD 67 and the state, I heard them say over and over again that classroom discipline was a major problem and one they felt they had no control over.

House Bill 6 is designed to strengthen the authority of teachers in managing classroom discipline while ensuring all students receive a structured and supportive educational experience. Ultimately this bill reflects a commitment to prioritizing the needs of teachers, students, and parents alike—ensuring Texas classrooms remain places of learning, not constant disruption. I look forward to the Senate approving this bill and getting it across the finish line this session for all of our hardworking Texas teachers.



### **MORE LEGISLATION ON THE MOVE**

This week we also passed a number of other measures. [Senate Bill 260](#) builds on the funding for school safety that was appropriated during the 88<sup>th</sup> legislative session. This bill increases the per student safety allotment as well as the per campus allotment – giving our school districts the resources they need to keep our students safe.

Along those same lines, we passed [House Bill 1458](#) which expands the eligibility to serve as a public school district armed security officer by providing for the appointment of reserve police officers.

Importantly, we also passed [House Bill 39](#). The epidemic of veteran suicides is tragic—and preventable. Texas can, and must, do more to support those who have given so much to preserve American freedom. I was proud to vote for HB 39, which will help the Texas Veterans Commission identify risk factors, demographic patterns, and contributors to veteran deaths so we can increase mental health resources for this population that deserves our gratitude and support every single day.

### **BECOME AN HONORARY PAGE FOR THE TEXAS HOUSE!**

Every session, each member has the opportunity to choose 4 Honorary Pages for the Texas House. Pages help with the duties of the Texas House including folding flags, delivering items to members on the House floor, and getting a behind-the-scenes look at their legislature in action. Our office has 3 spots still available for this session and we'd love to have you! This is for youth ages 8-18 and they will either have a morning shift (8:30am-12pm) or an afternoon shift (1:30pm-5pm). To apply to be a page for our office and to learn more, please reach out to [District67.Leach@house.texas.gov](mailto:District67.Leach@house.texas.gov).

Here's some pictures of pages we have had in past sessions!

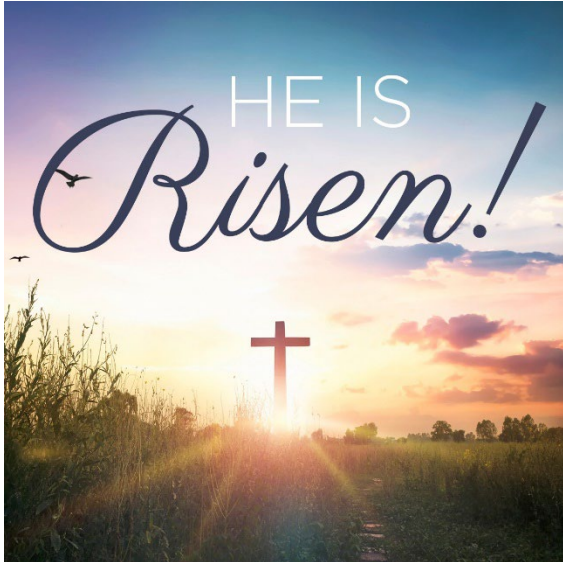


### **NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

**Floor Schedule:**

- Tuesday: Convene at 11am
- Wednesday: Convene at 10am
- Thursday: Convene at 10am
- Friday: Convene at 9am

I hope you and your family have a lovely Easter weekend!



All My Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Leach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Leach

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