

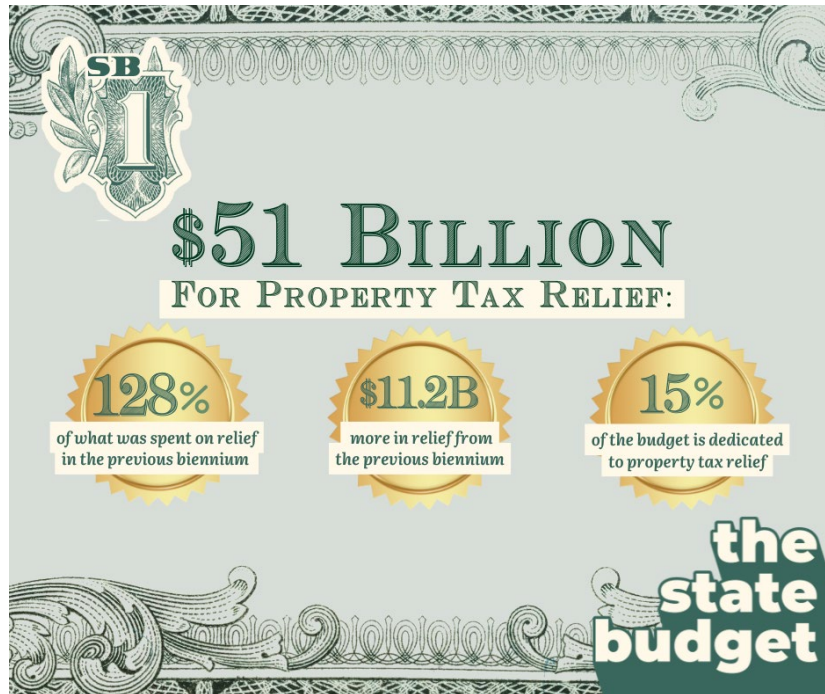
Dear Friends,

It was a very busy week at the Texas Capitol with important bills passing on both the House and Senate side of the dome.

### **PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR ALL TEXANS**

This week the Texas House passed multiple bills in an effort to provide much-needed property tax relief for homeowners and business owners. Building on last session, I was proud to cosponsor [SB 4](#) which will increase the homestead exemption from \$100,000 to \$140,000 – significantly decreasing the taxable value of homes. The exemption is even greater for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Through [SB 23](#) we raised their homestead exemption from \$110,000 to \$200,000. This will provide real relief that homeowners will see reflected on their tax statements.

Likewise, Texas businesses will also see relief. In Texas, businesses not only pay property taxes on land or buildings, they also pay a "personal property tax" on any tangible item used to generate income, such as inventory, machinery, and equipment. Currently, the state only exempts \$2,500 in the taxable value of that property. [House Bill 9](#) increases that exemption to \$125,000, making it the nation's second largest exemption of its kind. This will allow businesses to continue creating jobs and investing in our growing economy. A win-win for everyone!



## **MAJOR WINS FOR TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Great news! My bill, [House Bill 6](#) – the Teachers’ Bill of Rights – passed the Senate last night! This is a vital piece of legislation that our teachers and schools desperately need and want. This bill affirms our commitment to teachers, ensuring they have the necessary tools to foster a safe, effective, and uninterrupted learning environment for all students. I’m proud of the work we’ve done to get this important bill across the finish line and I look forward to Governor Abbott signing it into law!

Additionally, the House and Senate have come to an agreement on [House Bill 2](#) which will provide a historic \$8.5 billion boost for public schools. This legislation provides targeted funding where schools need it most – teacher pay raises, special education and school safety – while also raising the basic allotment to allow schools the flexibility to use those fund for basic costs.

House Bill 2 Highlights:

- \$8.5 billion in new funding, the largest single increase in public education funding in Texas history
- \$4.2 billion for record permanent teacher and staff pay raises
- Expanded incentive pay and teacher training programs
- \$1.3 billion in Allotment for Basic Costs (ABC) to assist districts with expenses like insurance, utilities, and TRS contributions

- Ties the basic allotment to the growth of property values, yielding automatic increases in public education funding moving forward
- Nearly \$2 billion to update special education formulas and fund full-day pre-K, early learning interventions, and Career & Technical Education (CTE)
- \$430 million for school safety

The bottom line is that this bill will be transformational for our public schools, students and teachers. Together, with House Bill 6, we've given teachers exactly what they've been asking for: a way to make their classroom safer and more effective and an increase in pay. I'm proud that we have delivered both!

### **BAIL REFORM IN TEXAS STARTS NOW**

For too long, activist judges have handed out low bail to repeat offenders, putting them right back on our streets and endangering innocent Texans. That ends now. With the passage of the below legislation, we are taking decisive action to reform a broken system.

**SJR 1**: requires denial of bail for illegal aliens charged with certain felony offenses

**SJR 5**: requires denial of bail for any person charged with certain felony offenses

**SB 9**: reforms pretrial detention laws, strengthens oversight of charitable bail organizations, and enhances bail procedures

**SB 40**: prohibits cities and counties from using public funds to pay bail for criminal defendants

We absolutely must prioritize public safety, give judges the tools they need to make risk-based decisions, and keep violent criminals where they belong – behind bars. Texans deserve safer communities, and we are leading the charge to make that happen.

### **CONSERVATIVE BILLS ON THE MOVE**

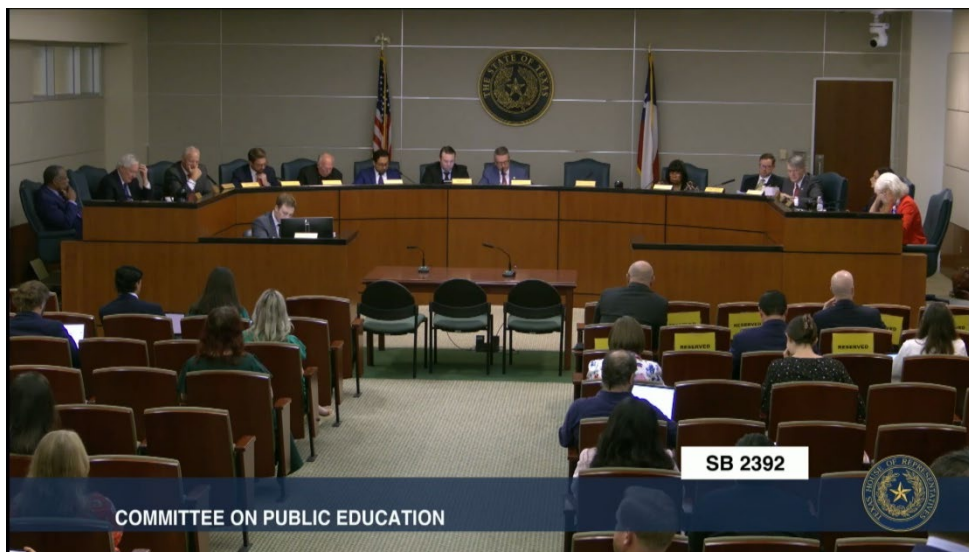
This week we passed **SB 31**, the Life of the Mother Act, which I was honored to cosponsor and support. SB 31 provides clear, consistent, and uniform guidelines so care is not denied or delayed and pregnant women don't die or have to leave the state to obtain care for life threatening conditions. This bill, which was negotiated and agreed to by all the major pro-life groups in Texas, will ensure exceptions to otherwise prohibited pregnancy terminations, based on reasonable medical judgment, achieve the intended goal of protecting the lives of pregnant women. The bill provides uniformity and clarifies each of the existing exceptions, which are spread throughout multiple codes and provisions.

The Texas House also passed **SB 24**, a bill I was proud to sponsor, to ensure that future generations of Texans understand the truth about communism. We have a responsibility to educate students on the reality of life under communist regimes – mass murder, oppression, censorship, and economic collapse. SB 24 requires instruction on the history and atrocities

committed by regimes in Cuba, China, the Soviet Union and more – alongside the testimony of those that lived through it. Freedom is not inherited, it must be taught and defended. This bill ensures Texas students learn the difference between tyranny and liberty.



This week in the Public Education committee, I laid out [SB 2392](#) – a critical step forward in protecting Texas students from internal threats on campus. While we’ve made progress in securing schools from outside dangers, too often, misconduct by educators or students goes unreported. SB 2392 strengthens reporting requirements for serious offenses like sexual coercion, human trafficking, and child pornography - ensuring school leaders can no longer look the other way. This bill closes dangerous loopholes, holds administrators accountable, and sends a clear message: protecting our kids must come first. I am proud to lead this effort and will continue fighting to keep every Texas student safe.



We also passed on second reading [Senate Bill 3](#) which will ban THC, the more potent psychoactive element in marijuana, in Texas. Since the expansion of consumable hemp in 2019, the hemp industry has exploited a loop hole in the law and the effect has been THC-laced products including edibles, drinks, vapes and more, all throughout our community. And importantly, accessible and in the hands of our kids. Chief Dye from Allen has seen firsthand the impact that these products are having on our community and has been on the front lines to help get this legislation passed. Likewise, [House Bill 46](#) will significantly expand Texas' Compassionate Use Program (TCUP) easing access to more patients across the state. It would add additional dispensaries, expand the state's list of qualifying conditions, allow a wider range of available products and allow marijuana for end-of-life patients in palliative or hospice care.



### **AT THE CAPITOL THIS WEEK**

It was great welcoming a wonderful group of constituents from First Melissa Church to the Capitol this week. Thanks for stopping by and saying hello!



I was also honored to receive the Medical Professional Liability Association's Public Policy Award yesterday. Protecting patients and defending our healthcare heroes has long been a top priority of mine in the Texas House. I'm proud of the work we've done to strengthen medical liability protections and ensure a fair, balanced legal environment for providers and patients alike.



## NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

### Floor Schedule:

- Saturday: Convene at 12pm
- Sunday: Convene at 2pm
- Monday: Convene at 10am
- Tuesday: Convene at 10am
- Wednesday: Convene at 10am
- Thursday: Convene at 10am
- Friday: Convene at 10am

All My Best,

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