

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas House of Representatives



March 17, 2017

Friends,

Last Friday marked the 60th day of the session and the last day for legislators to file bills for consideration during the 85th legislative session. With over 6,500 bills filed this session, we are hard at work reviewing legislation and considering its potential impact on our state.

Preventing Distracted Driving

HB 62, which aims to keep drivers safe by preventing texting while driving, passed in the Texas House of Representatives this week. In addition to requiring new drivers be informed about the dangers of texting while driving, this bill creates a new offense for using a mobile communication device while driving. I proudly co-authored and supported this bill to make driving in Texas safer for everyone. HB 62 will now head over to the Senate.

Economic Development

Last week, the Economic Development & Small Business Committee held its second organizational meeting of the session. Our committee heard testimony from several organizations including the University of Texas at San Antonio Small Business Development Center's Robert McKinley, who spoke about the role of small business development centers (SBDCs) in Texas. In 2016, SBDCs served over 63,000 small businesses in this state, providing job training and consulting services to clients in order to accelerate business growth. Additionally, it was interesting to hear Mr. McKinley's testimony on the Texas Enterprise Fund as well as small business development centers, which have directly and indirectly contributed to the creation of over 100,000 jobs between 2012-2016. This week our committee heard testimony on 4 pieces of legislation which relate to various issues affecting economic development including the Texas Workforce Commission. It was wonderful to hear so many different perspectives on these complex issues. We will continue looking for creative solutions to move the Texas economy further.

Constituent Roundtables

Last weekend, I held my mid-session Constituent Roundtables. I enjoyed being back in the district and was eager to work with so many friends in the community on issues that are before the state legislature.

The Roundtables focus on a variety of topics including Public Safety, Technology, Business & Transportation, Energy & Water, Education, Multicultural, Health & Human Services, and Seniors. They bring together those involved with the industry, local leaders, and concerned citizens to voice their opinions on each issue. The only requirement is that participants must either live or work in House District 112.

The Business & Transportation Roundtable discussed ways to connect workforce development with secondary and higher education. Additionally, we discussed the increasing transportation infrastructure needs, the proposed high speed rail project, and the ridesharing bill. At the Education Roundtable, I had a very productive conversation with area teachers, administrators, parents, students, and professionals about public school funding, school vouchers, workforce development, and higher education research funding. Lastly, at the Seniors Roundtable, we talked about voting access and security, programs to help people with Alzheimer's, and the needs of our growing senior population.

I appreciate everyone that came out on Friday and Saturday of last week to give me their input on legislation that is currently making its way through the legislative process. If you have any thoughts on the current issues facing the state or would like to get involved with my roundtables, please let me know.



Pictured with members of the Education Roundtable.



Discussing higher education issues with UT System Chancellor Bill McRaven.



Members of the Garland Youth Council came to advocate for a bill that they thought would benefit young people in Garland and the entire state.

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative. Please continue to communicate your views on issues that are important to you.

Sincerely,

Angie Chen Button

If you would like to be added or removed from this mailing, please e-mail Angie.Button@house.texas.gov