



February 22, 2013 | Volume 3 | Issue 7

Representative Dan Huberty



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"It's for the kids"

This past week at the Texas Capitol was all about the children of this great State. We started out slow, convening at 2 PM on Monday and heading right into the 83rd Session's first Congratulatory and Memorial Calendar. Once all Resolutions were adopted, the House adjourned. I arrived in Austin later than usual this day after participating in the Annual Humble ISD Golf Classic at Kingwood Country Club. It was a very successful event and raised money to support the district's student athletes.

Tuesday brought the first, of what I assume will be many, very lengthy House Public Education Committee hearings. We were called to order at 2 PM, and did not adjourn until midnight. With the hot topic of testing and student assessment on the docket, our very first bill to hear, HB 5, had more than 100 witnesses registered to testify. After more than 8 hours of testimony on HB 5, we covered the remaining seven bills set for hearing that day, including my own HB 224. I will cover this more in the newsletter below, but both of these pieces of legislation will be great for the students of Texas.

This week, we saw a large amount of visitors from across Texas, but specifically brought students, and House District 127 constituents, from Baylor University, the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor and Texas Tech University. Our office also spent time with representatives from Humble ISD's Council of PTA's and several more groups of teachers present for Texas PTA Day at the Capitol on Thursday. I also attended their rally on the south steps of the Capitol, for Texas students.

Thursday also brought the unanimous approval by House Members of a Supplemental Appropriations bill, HB 10, which injects \$4.5 billion into Medicaid and CHIP programs; and another \$630 million into Texas Public Schools. You can read more about this below, but I can honestly say, this was a great win for the kids. Please take the time to read the remainder of the newsletter attached.

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty

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Public Education Hearing - 2.19.13

On Tuesday, February 19, the House Committee on Public Education met for the second time to consider its first eight bills of the 83rd session. House Bill (HB) 5 by Chairman Jimmie Don Aycok was heard first and had more than 100 witnesses registered to testify. It brought teachers, administrators, constituents, and members of associations together in support, with only three folks testifying against the bill. HB 5 deals with public school accountability, including assessments and curriculum. The testimony for HB 5 lasted for eight hours. The last bill to be heard by the committee was Representative Huberty's HB 224, which repeals the mandate that 15 percent of a student's final grade in a particular course comes from their performance on an end-of-course exam. This mandate was established during the 81st legislative session in HB 3, which intended to raise academic standards and help to improve college readiness. Representative Huberty made the decision to file this bill because of the many frustrations he heard from constituents, parents, teachers, and administrators over that past two years. The committee will meet next week to consider five more bills.



Houston Apartment Association

On Wednesday, February 20, Representative Huberty took a brief break from the Capitol and headed over to the Omni Hotel to address members of the Houston Apartment Association. The group was in town to visit with their local legislators and statewide officials to advocate for the legislative priorities of HAA. Rep. Huberty joined them at their luncheon to speak about the 83rd Legislative Session, to give a brief update on what has happened in the first 45 days, and what to expect in the remaining days.

He noted that although this session has seemed to fly by, there is still plenty of work to be done before Sine Die, but the members of the House are prepared to address the important issues for all Texans.

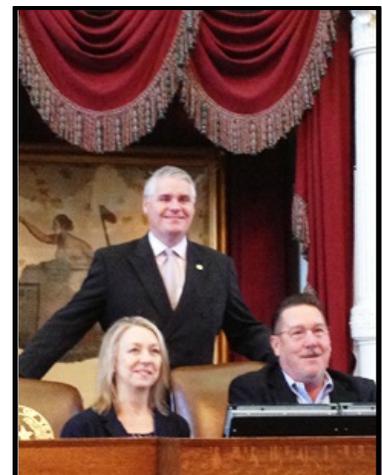
State Affairs Hearing - 2.20.13

The first State Affairs committee hearing was held on Wednesday, Feb. 20. Seven bills were heard ranging in topics from public utilities to State employee charitable contributions. Chairman Sylvester Turner presented his HB 550, which would direct money from the System Benefit Fund to low-income electric customers. The System Benefit Fund was originally a set aside for low-income electric customers, but some of that funding had been diverted. HB 550 would redirect those funds and fix other bugs in the program to help low-income electric customers.

Steve & Katy Weirich

Atascocita residents, Steve & Katy Weirich, visited Representative Huberty at the Capitol on Thursday, February 21. At his invitation, the Weirich's came to the Austin for the day for private tours, meetings and dinner with Rep. Huberty.

It was a very busy day at the Capitol with lots of groups walking the grounds and halls. As well, HB 10 was being discussed on the House floor. They truly enjoyed their time at the Capitol and all of their activities. Representative Huberty is happy to host constituents anytime during the legislative session. Please contact the Capitol Office for more information.



Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA)

The Building Owners and Managers Association of Texas held their Advocacy Day at the Capitol on Thursday, February 21. Representative Huberty hosted the organization leaders as guests on the House Floor while he presented House Resolution (HR) 502, honoring the group and their scheduled Day at the Capitol. The floor guests included Steve Ash, Immediate Past-President, Texas BOMA; John Kelley, President-Elect, Texas BOMA; Mary Stanton, President, Houston BOMA; Brett Williams, President-Elect, Houston BOMA and Tammy Betancourt, Executive Vice President, Houston BOMA. Visiting BOMA members were watching from the Gallery and Rep. Huberty recognized them, as well.

To quote the HR 502, "Whereas, established in 1937 as the state chapter of BOMA International, Texas BOMA represents the interests of stakeholders in the commercial real estate business; it is composed of 2,000 members and six federated associations in Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio; as leaders in a vital industry, its members support over 65,000 jobs, provide \$2.5 billion in new personal earnings, and contribute more than \$7.8 billion to the state economy; and Whereas, for more than 70 years, the Texas Building Owners and Managers Association has served as a voice for those who work in the commercial real estate industry while helping to promote responsible building practices, and the organization's legislative day provides a welcome opportunity to recognize the dedicated efforts of its membership; now, therefore, be it resolved, that the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas Legislature hereby recognize February 21, 2013, as Texas BOMA Advocacy Day at the State Capitol."



Speaker Joe Straus with Rep. Huberty and members of BOMA

House Bill 10 - Supplemental Appropriations Bill

On Thursday, February 21, the Texas House of Representatives passed House Bill (HB) 10. The legislation, authored by Appropriations Committee Chairman Jim Pitts, allows the Legislature to fulfill its current financial obligations to health care providers and ensures that Texas doctors, hospitals, and nursing homes can continue to provide services to Texas residents.

The current appropriation for Medicaid costs is scheduled to run out in March of 2013. HB 10 provides a supplemental appropriation of \$4.8 billion to ensure the continuation of vital services such as Medicaid (\$4.5 billion) and Children's Health Program (\$75 million). Also, an extra \$630 million will be distributed to the Texas Education Agency to assist in public education funding.

Due to exceptional growth in the private sector, the State of Texas will collect \$8.8 billion more in the current biennium than originally estimated. This stronger-than-expected performance of the Texas economy will allow HB 10 to be paid with existing revenue. HB 10 will now head to the senate for approval before heading to the Comptroller for a signature to go into effect.

Humble ISD Golf Classic

Representative Huberty was honored to join Chief Larry Shiflet, Humble ISD School Board President Charles Cunningham and Jess Fields for a round of golf at the Humble ISD Golf Classic on Monday, February 18, at Kingwood County Club. In its 4th year, this event has become a very successful funding source for Humble ISD High School Golf Programs. Each year, the golf teams, along with their families and friends participate in this district-wide fundraiser to raise monies to contribute to existing funds needed to offset the tournament fees and travel expenses of each high school's golf program.

Since combining fundraising strategies, the Classic has steadily grown in size. With the ultimate goal of equaling the districts budgeted dollars for the sport of Golf, the 2013 tournament sold out player registrations early on, resulting in adding a 4th course for players. Collaborating with Frye Daddy's Foundation, this event further honors the memory of Donald W. Frye III by highlighting the foundation's mission and the legacy of Donny Frye. This year, the tournament will also honor the memory of Kingwood High School golfer, Roman Kogucki. With the blessing and support of his family, a Memorial Scholarship was added to the tournament's mission. The chosen recipient embodies the core values of sportsmanship and teamwork while leading a life of service.



Rep. Huberty with Chief Larry Shiflet at the 2013 Humble ISD Golf Classic

Honorary House Page Program

All house members have the opportunity to host a certain number of honorary pages during the legislative session, through the Texas House Honorary Page Program at the Texas Capitol. Students, ages 8 to 18 years old, serve as honorary pages for one half-day shift and witness the legislative process from inside the Capitol walls.

Honorary pages are granted floor access and have the opportunity to visit with Texas Representatives, meet the Speaker of the House and learn the legislative process. In addition, honorary pages will work with the Sergeant-at-Arms office to assist with the delivery of messages and documents around the Capitol for members, as they are escorted with a Sergeant. For more details on how to apply, e-mail Representative Huberty at Dan.Huberty@house.state.tx.us and ask specifically about the Honorary Page Program.

AMS Persuasive Research Project

Atascocita Middle School 7th grade students had an opportunity to ask Rep. Huberty, Dr. Craig and Mr. Jones questions at their "2nd Annual Persuasive Research Project Press Conference," on Friday, February 22. Each student chose a research topic based on a change they would like to see implemented at their school. The students will try to convince their teacher, and upon approval, try to convince their principal to implement the change at the school. The topics this year range from listening to iPods in class to healthier lunch choices to having early release on Fridays. Similar to a professional research project, students conducted interviews, created and carried out a survey and corresponded with school and community leaders. The students enjoyed the project, and Rep. Huberty was honored to participate.



Rep. Huberty with AMS 7th Grade Students

Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP)

The Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program is open for applications. TASSP was created to encourage students to become members of the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air National Guard, the Texas State Guard, the United States Coast Guard, or the United States Merchant Marine, or to become commissioned officers in any branch of the armed services of the United States. Each year the governor and the lieutenant governor may each appoint two students, and each state senator and state representative may appoint one student to receive an initial conditional scholarship.

Program participants must meet two of the following four academic criteria to be selected: be on track to graduate or have graduated high school with the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP) or the International Baccalaureate Program (IB); a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher; achieved a college readiness score on the SAT (1590) or ACT (23) and/or ranked in the top one-third of the prospective high school graduating class. To be eligible for selection, students must: enroll in a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC); agree to: complete four years of ROTC training, graduate no later than six years after the date first enrolled, and after graduation, enter into: a four year commitment to be a member of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, United States Coast Guard, or United States Merchant Marine; contract to serve as a commissioned officer in any branch of the armed services of the United States, or repay the scholarship if the requirements are not met.

Representative Huberty is now accepting applications for selection via personal request letters. Please include details on all eligibility requirements listed above. For more information on the TAASP, the application process, eligibility requirements and the amounts that may be awarded, please visit the program [website](#).

HLSR Dignitary Breakfast & Rodeo Parade

The beautiful weather in Houston did not go unnoticed by Representative Huberty and his family. Early Saturday morning, they had the honor of attending the annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's (HLSR) Dignitary Breakfast and Rodeo Parade.

The event, which honors those who serve our local community, allowed them an opportunity to meet and speak with other local elected officials, plus HLSR Directors and Committeemen. The breakfast was hosted at the Hobby Center in Downtown Houston and offered the Huberty family a chance to view the Trail Ride and Parade from the balcony. It was a truly fun event for the family to enjoy together.



Humble ISD Council of PTA's

Representative Huberty had a chance to meet one-on-one with members of the Humble ISD Council of PTA's on Thursday, February 21, when the visitors came to the Capitol for Texas PTA Day. They discussed the issues facing the district and possible solutions. Rep. Huberty was able to speak to the attendees about his legislation to repeal the 15% rule, as well as, Chairman Aycock's HB 5.

After the meeting, the group headed to the south steps of the Capitol where the Texas PTA rally was being held. Rep Huberty was honored to join them at the event and have a chance to speak to more parents, teachers and administrators.