

# Lalani's Legislative Letter

## *Volume 2023 Issue 2*

### ***Greetings from your Texas Capitol!***

Another two weeks have gone by, and things are really picking up in the Texas Legislature. We have started to be in Austin for longer stretches of time and we are beginning to actively discuss important issues on the House floor. The Speaker of the House has made committee assignments and I am ready to learn all I can to be the best servant for the people of House District 76.

I have also had the opportunity to welcome many of you to the Texas Capitol and that is a blessing and an honor. I encourage each of you to visit the Capitol. It is your building. The work that happens here is for you, done by those whom you elected. Come and see it. Get involved. Make your voices heard.

Many exciting things are beginning to happen. We will be filing our first bills in the upcoming week, and I can't wait to share them with you. Remember, it takes 76 votes in the Texas House to pass a bill – therefore nothing can get done without House District 76! The Texas Legislature is stronger with HD76!

***Remember this is your Capitol. You are the most important part of what happens here. Come and see it, get involved, make your voice heard.***

Blessings,

*Representative Suleman Lalani, M.D.*

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## ***Committee Corner***

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, Speaker Dade Phelan announced his appointments to Legislative Committees. He placed me onto three key committees: Higher Education, Natural Resources, and Resolution Calendar.

The [House Committee on Higher Education](#) oversees all colleges and universities of the State of Texas, and state agencies including the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation, the Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board, and the Texas A&M Extension Service. The committee's priorities over the interim included teacher shortages and student tuition.

The [House Committee on Natural Resources](#) focuses on the conservation of the natural resources of Texas, including the control and development of land and water and land and water resources. Over the interim, Natural Resources studied the Gulf Coast Protection District, groundwater issues and water infrastructure in the state.

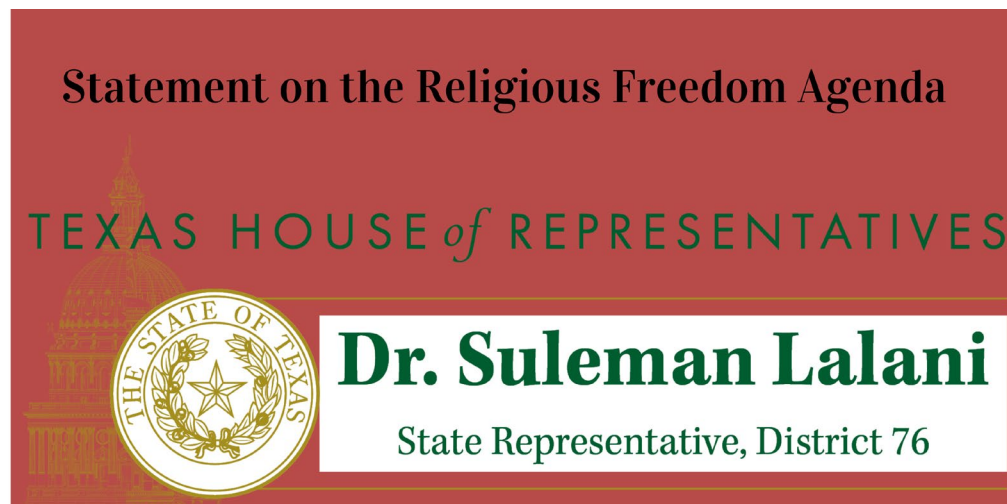
The [House Committee on Resolutions](#) is a procedural committee which sets resolutions from the Speaker and other members to the floor calendars for consideration. Resolutions are generally congratulatory or memorial in nature or signify the concern or condemnation of the body.

I am humbled by the faith that the Speaker has put in me by appointing me to such important committees. These committees worked diligently before I was sworn in to prioritize issues that concern Texans and strengthen Texas. These committees affect the lives of all Texans. I look forward to building on what they accomplished last session and during the interim, rolling up my sleeves and getting to work to pass legislation that will benefit both House District 76 and Texas alike. I am honored to and ready to serve.

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## ***Capitol Happenings***

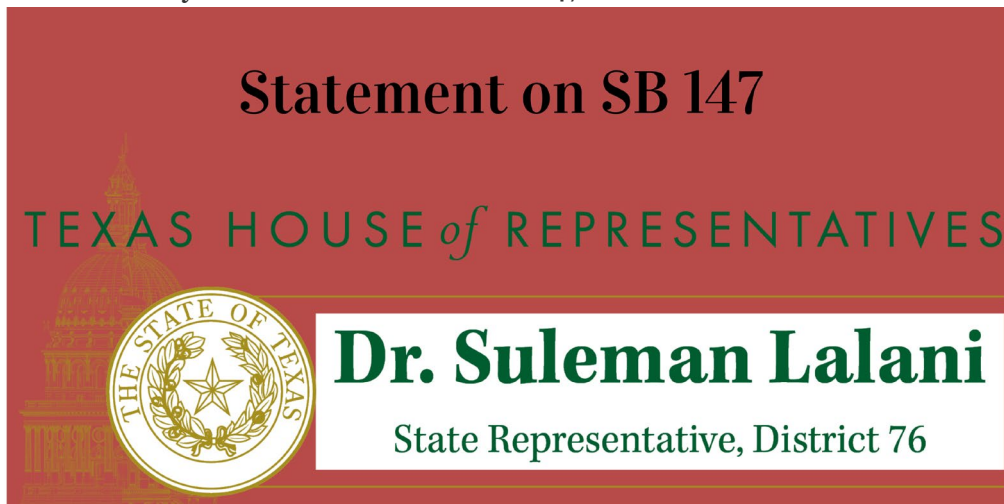
On February 7<sup>th</sup>, I was honored to stand with my colleagues to announce my support for a slate of bills that would extend rights to Texans who have not enjoyed the freedom to practice their religion in all aspects of their lives. Please click below to view my entire statement.



I am still very carefully following SB147. This bill, as currently written, would prevent asylum seekers and immigrants from China, North Korea, Iran, and Russia - including lawful permanent residents from buying property in the State of Texas.

As an immigrant I am deeply disappointed in SB 147. I came to Texas because of its economic prosperity, inclusion, and diversity that it has to offer. To people trying to escape oppressive regimes and make Texas their home this legislation tells them – you are not welcome here. To people who want to find peace and raise their families free from harm this legislation tells them – not here in Texas.

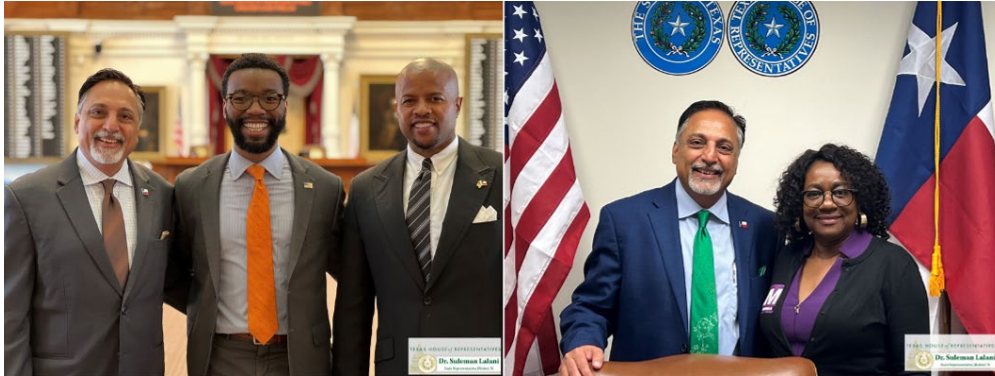
Please click below to view my entire statement on SB 147.



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## *Advocacy at the Capitol*

I have been honored to host several members of the Ft. Bend County Government in my office to discuss their legislative priorities. I am very excited to work with the Ft. Bend County Commissioner Dexter McCoy and District Clerk Beverley Walker to help make the county that we call home an even better place to live!



Every month during the Legislative session, the Texas Medical Association hosts First Tuesday, an advocacy day for its members. White coats can be seen throughout the halls as physicians meet with legislators and staff to discuss policy issues that affect them. Sometimes I run into colleagues in the hallways and sometimes I get to speak to medical student and residents to discuss important changes that need to be made to medical education in Texas.



We were all devastated to hear about the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria at the beginning of the month. My office had the privilege of attending the Turkic American Friendship Reception on February 8<sup>th</sup>. It was a celebration of the relationship between the United States and the Turkic region of the world. We learned about ongoing rescue efforts and how we can help, tasted some delicious food, and watched as artisans created water paintings and calligraphy. The Turkic region will be in recovery for a long while and will need resources, if you are interested in helping in these efforts, please contact the [Houston Raindrop Foundation](#) for information.



Student leaders from Fort Bend ISD had an opportunity to come and participate in a day of advocacy at the Capitol. They were able to meet with members of the Fort Bend County delegation and have

conversations with members and staff about education and other important matters. Our office was fortunate to be able to meet with them over some good old Texas BBQ and discuss what advocacy means, why it is important to our legislative process and the things that they can do to become involved.



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## *In Our District*

When I am home, I try to be in as many places as I can be in order to celebrate the diversity within House District 76. Over the last few weeks, I have been able to attend a few events that have been hosted.

I had the pleasure of visiting the Eternal Gandhi Museum Houston, which is still under construction. While not within the boundaries of HD 76, it is close by and commemorates the peaceful spirit of Mahatma Gandhi. The building is near complete, and the exhibits are being installed. I hope you will join me to tour it once it officially opens on October 2, 2023.



## How to Reach Us



**TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES**

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**This week at the Capitol**

**Saturday, 05/06/2023**  
House in Session at 9:00am

**Monday, 05/08/2023**  
Higher Education Committee at 8:00am  
House in Session at 10:00am

**Tuesday, 05/09/2023**  
Asian American Day at the Capitol  
Natural Resources Committee at 8:00am  
House in Session at 9:00am

**Wednesday, 05/10/2023**  
BAPS Celebration of Selfless Service at the Capitol  
House in Session at 10:00am

**Thursday, 05/11/2023**  
World War II Veterans Day at the Capitol  
House in Session at 10:00am

**Friday, 05/12/2023**  
House in Session at 9:00am

**Follow us!**

 @LalaniTX

 @DoctorLalani

Tune in to watch the Committees or House Floor live this week.

<https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/>

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