

Lalani's Legislative Letter

Volume 2023 Issue 3

Greetings from your Texas Capitol!

Nobody could visit the Texas Capitol this week and be oblivious to the pulse of the Legislature. From early in the morning until well into the evening, the Capitol halls are filled with elected officials, staff, delegations from organizations around Texas here to advocate for the issues that are important to them, constituents meeting with their representatives, and Texans who want to see democracy in action.

It is an exciting time to be here. My staff and I thrive off the energy, which is good because until the session ends, we are spending the majority of our hours in this building. I have already had the privilege of welcoming many of you to the Capitol, and hope to welcome many more of you.

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.

Each of you is welcome to come visit my office and share your thoughts and opinions with us. Every day at the legislature, I see how HD 76 is a microcosm of the great diversity and strength that is Texas. Together we can help Texas move into a bright future. It is essential that our voices are heard.

Blessings,

Representative Suleman Lalani, M.D.

Committee Corner

Higher Education Committee. I attended my first Higher Education Committee meeting on Monday, March 6th. We were primarily focused on procedural matters but we will move on to considering specific legislation very soon. As a member of the Resolutions Calendars Committee, I've authored eight resolutions and coauthored five others, recognizing the strength in diversity that epitomizes HD 76 and offers a model for Texas in 2023.



I look forward to updating you on developments from my other committees—Natural Resources and Resolutions Calendars.

Capitol Happenings

Higher Education Committee. I previously discussed my opposition to [Senate Bill 147](#). As originally introduced, the bill would prevent citizens of China, North Korea, Iran, and Russia from buying property in Texas. While the bill author's intentions may have been sound – preventing bad actors benefiting from property purchases in our state its wording was extremely problematic. As written, it would have included lawful permanent residents, most of whom are here because they fell in love with the American dream and American freedom. It would also have included asylum seekers, precisely those people who have been hurt the most by the governments the bill is intended to punish. We must acknowledge that there is a difference between the actions of governments and the people who have fled those countries for the hope of Texas.

I have joined Shelia Jackson Lee, State Representative Gene Wu, founding chair of the Asian American Leadership Council, Ling Luo, and numerous citizens, both immigrants and US-born in my criticism of the bill.

I will continue to monitor this bill very closely and keep you updated.

Filing Deadline. Friday, March 10th was the deadline to file bills for the 88th Legislative session. Our office has authored 28 bills and joint or co-authored on a dozen more on behalf of HD 76 constituents. I am in Austin to ensure state government is responsive to the issues which are important to you. Therefore, my bills address healthcare, education and supporting teachers, accessibility and transparency of government information, responsible gun ownership, and empowering local government to best serve its citizens.

Stay tuned for more in-depth discussions on the issues I am championing for you! In the meantime, please follow this [link](#) to see what legislation I am working on.

Advocacy at the Capitol

Fort Bend Day at the Capitol. I was delighted to welcome so many old and new friends to the Capitol when the buses from Fort Bend County rolled up to the Capitol for Fort Bend County Day. It was a powerful reminder of who I am here to serve. I was honored to sit on a panel with the Fort Bend County Delegation to discuss the legislative session and answer questions from our visitors.

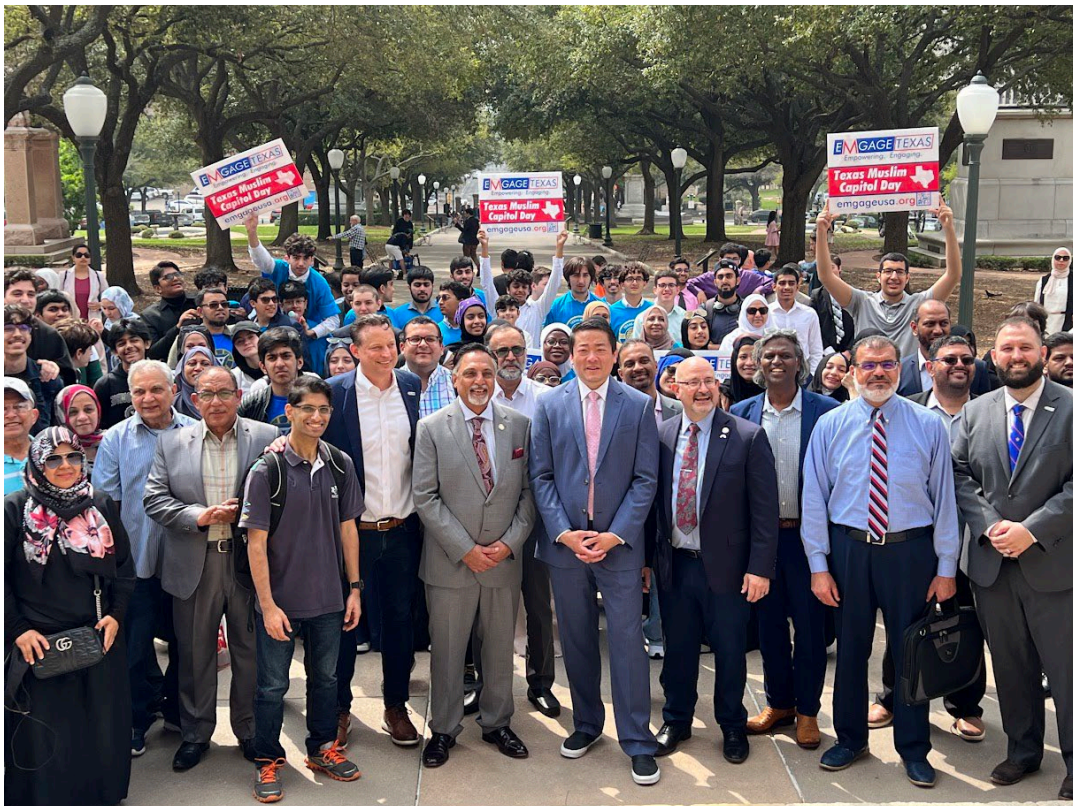


Gun Sense Day. On March 1st, I stood with my wife and other members of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense Day at the Texas Legislature. As a father, gun safety and the safety of our schoolchildren is very important to me. As a physician, I know gun violence is a public health issue. As a Gun Sense Champion, I support those working for common sense expressions of our Second Amendment rights. I stood in solidarity with fellow Legislators and called for action to be taken to address the gun crisis in Texas.

I was particularly honored to present the Fort Bend Chapter of Moms Demand Action a resolution recognizing all their efforts on behalf of Texas. They presented me with the first ever Dad Demands t-shirt!



Texas Muslim Capitol Day. This year was the 20th year of Texas Muslim Capitol Day, but it was the first year where attendees were greeted by elected Muslim state representatives. There are approximately 500,000 Texas Muslims, diverse in our backgrounds and understanding of our faith, but united in our commitment to keeping Texas strong. Texas Muslim Capitol Day is an important moment for Texas Muslims to share ideas and concerns with elected officials while increasing our visibility.



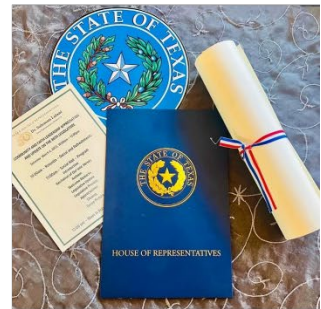


In Our District

State of the City - Sugarland. I was excited to be back in HD 76 on March 3rd for “State of the City – Sugarland,” an annual briefing by Mayor Joe Zimmerman and City Manager Michael Goodrum hosted by the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce. These kinds of events are very important for legislators. It helps us stay on top of the latest trends, concerns, and opportunities of the communities we represent. The information I will take back to Austin from the State of the City ensures I give the best possible representation to my constituents.




Community and Faith Leadership Appreciation. On Saturday, March 4th, I held a Community and Faith Leadership Appreciation event at the Ismaili Jamatkhana and Center. Community support, involvement, and communication are essential for elected representatives to do our best work on behalf of those we serve. Through this event, I wanted to show my appreciation for the enormous support and encouragement I have received in this regard. There are so many people and groups in HD 76 working hard every day to make a difference.



As part of the event I presented recognition certificates to ten individuals and organizations really going the distance for our community. The event also included updates on the 88th Legislative Session, allowing me to share my legislative priorities on behalf of HD 76 residents.

How to Reach Us

 <p>TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Dr. Suleman Lalani State Representative, District 76</p> <p>Office Contacts</p> <p>Jennifer Strobel Chief of Staff jennifer.strobel@house.texas.gov</p> <p>Elliot Ross Legislative Director elliot.ross@house.texas.gov</p> <p>Capitol Office Room Number EL512</p> <p>Capitol Office Phone (512) 463-0596</p> <p>Capitol Office Email district76.lalani@house.texas.gov</p> <p><small>Capitol Office: P.O. Box 3910 • Austin, Texas 78768-7910 • phone (512) 463-0596 SULEMAN.LALANI@HOUS.TEXAS.GOV</small></p>	<p>This week at the Capitol</p> <p><small>Saturday, 03/04/2022 House in Session at 9:00am</small></p> <p><small>Sunday, 03/05/2022 Higher Education Committee at 9:00am House in Session at 10:00am</small></p> <p><small>Tuesday, 03/08/2022 State American Day at the Capitol Natural Resources Committee at 9:00am House in Session at 9:00am</small></p> <p><small>Wednesday, 03/09/2022 BAPC Celebration of Bellman Service at the Capitol House in Session at 10:00am</small></p> <p><small>Thursday, 03/10/2022 World War II Veterans Day at the Capitol House in Session at 10:00am</small></p> <p><small>Friday, 03/11/2022 House in Session at 9:00am</small></p>
<p>Follow us!</p> <p> @LalaniTX</p> <p> @DoctorLalani</p> <p>Tune in to watch the Committees or House Floor live this week.</p> <p>https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/</p>	

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