# TEXAS SENATOR Donna Campbell Highlights of the 83rd Legislature



### From the Senator's Desk...



### Dear Friends and Neighbors,

When I was sworn into the Texas Senate, I promised to bring an outsider's perspective to government. And that's exactly what I've done. I've governed as a citizen, serving to represent the voices of Texas families and small businesses.

As a result, Texans can celebrate many achievements from the 83rd Legislature. We found new funding for roads, reduced taxes by \$1.4 billion, fostered economic growth through limited government and fiscal responsibility, improved our schools with real education reforms, addressed water concerns, and passed legislation to cut red tape and fortify our Second Amendment rights.

The Texas model is working and the Lone Star State continues to shine bright, with 3 out of every 10 new jobs in the U.S. created in Texas. As your state senator, I am committed to this success.

It has truly been an honor to serve the great people of Senate District 25, and I look forward to continuing to work hard to represent your values.

Thanks and God bless Texas!

Dempbelling

### Fact:

The Texas Senate voted over 4000 times in 2013. Senator Campbell participated in every single vote and earned recognition for perfect attendance by the Secretary of the Senate's office.

Senator Campbell's 83rd Session Committee Membership includes:

Nominations — Vice-Chair Education Jurisprudence Transportation Transportation Funding, Select Veteran Affairs & Military Installations



Senator Campbell is a double-board certified physician, woman of faith, and proud mother of four daughters who represents the six counties which make up Senate District 25, stretching from San Antonio to Austin.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 83<sup>RD</sup> LEGISLATURE

### PROTECTING TAXPAYERS

This was a great session for taxpayers. The Texas Legislature passed SB 11 and SB 21 to require drug-testing for applicants seeking welfare and unemployment benefits. While SB 11 failed to pass in the House, SB 21 was signed into law by Governor Perry. Texans must be drug-free and ready to go back to work when a job opportunity arises, and this legislation ensures that.

The Texas Legislature also took steps to address Medicaid fraud and abuse with passage of SB 7, 8, and 58. These measures are estimated to save taxpayers more than \$51 million in the next state budget, guaranteeing that valuable Medicaid dollars make it to those who truly need assistance.

# TAX RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Senator Campbell led the charge to reduce taxes for small businesses, sponsoring HB 500 and HB 800. HB 500 reforms the margins tax, reducing it by 2.5 to 5% while making the million dollar exemption permanent for small businesses. HB 800 provides incentives and tax credits for businesses that invest in innovative research and development. These are important bills that will allow Texas to continue to lead the nation in job creation and recruit businesses from out-of-state.

### **ANALYZING THE BUDGET**

The budget for the next biennium is roughly \$197 billion. Almost 38% of that will go to fund public education and 37% is dedicated for health and human services. Education received a \$3.4 billion increase and state troopers will receive a pay raise over the next two years to recruit and retain DPS



Sen. Donna Campbell speaks with Sen. Charles Schwertner on the Senate Floor. Along with Sen. Deuell, they represent the three physicians serving in the Texas Senate.

officers. These officers are not just responsible for highway safety, but also homeland security and border security.

Unfortunately, the budget did not address critical investments in infrastructure like roads and water, which will come out of the Economic Stabilization Fund contingent upon voter approval. If voters approve both water and transportation referendums at the polls, it is estimated that \$7 to \$8 billion will still be available in the Rainy Day Fund for future emergencies. Ultimately, Sen. Campbell would like to see more fiscal restraint.

### **IMPROVING OUR SCHOOLS**

This was a great session for our schools. As a member of the Education Committee, Senator Campbell voted to implement real education reforms that will make a high school diploma more valuable

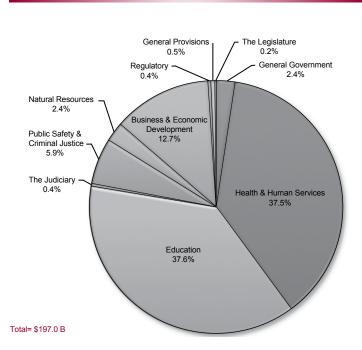
and allow students to gain stronger technological and trade skills to contribute more quickly to a 21st Century workforce.

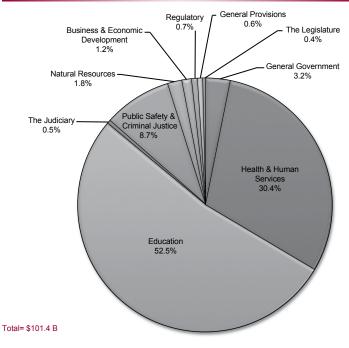
HB 5 passed overwhelmingly, reducing the number of required STAAR tests for graduation from 15 to 5. By emphasizing fewer tests, more focus will be given to mastering five critical subjects: English, English II, Algebra, Biology, and History. Additionally, school districts will have the option to give students end-of-course exams in English III and Algebra II. The goal is to strike the proper balance between necessary rigor and a creative learning environment that allows students to flourish.

By measuring a school district's performance with an A to F grading system, parents will also be able

### 2014-2015 All Funds

# 2014-2015 General Revenue & General Revenue-Dedicated





# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 83RD LEGISLATURE



Sen. Donna Campbell makes the Heart of Texas hand sign with members of student government at Texas State University. (from L to R: Drake VanDuker, Andrew Potter, Vanessa Cortez, Megan Trexler, and Tiffany Young)

to more easily discern how well a school is meeting their child's needs. This is a huge improvement from the previous system.

### **FUNDING ENROLLMENT**

As the population of our state grows, it's critical to fund enrollment growth and this year the Legislature provided funding for 160,000 new students.

Sen. Campbell worked hard to promote school choice and give parents more options when it comes to educating our children. SB 2 expands the number of charter schools while increasing accountability.

With great teachers, strong rigor, increased accountability and more quality education options, there is no limit to the opportunities we can provide the children of Texas. The education reforms made by the 83rd Legislature will help Texas create strong leaders and contribute to a workforce uniquely prepared for the 21st Century.

### **REINING IN CSCOPE**

CSCOPE made national headlines when online lesson plans were discovered comparing the Boston Tea Party to terrorists. Sen. Campbell authored legislation to rein in these lesson plans for the first time and give the State Board of Education oversight of the content. The bill also gives parents full access to the curriculum, which had been kept behind a wall of secrecy. By providing transparency and oversight, Texans can ensure that instructional materials being taught in our classrooms are correct, credible, and consistent.

### FIXING OUR ROADS

This was a great session for highway funding. As a member of the Transportation Committee, Sen. Campbell worked hard to find new money for our roads.

For the past decade, lack of transportation funding has forced many areas of the state to increasingly rely on toll roads. However, this has failed to improve driving conditions for the majority of Texans. As a result, the Texas Legislature passed SB 1029 to ensure existing non-tolled or free lanes on state highways cannot be converted into toll lanes.

In searching for long-term sustainable funding for our highways, the Legislature passed SJR 1 to provide roughly \$1.2 billion a year dedicated

solely to road construction and maintenance. This is the biggest boost in highway funding in over a decade without raising taxes. Best of all, this funding cannot be used for toll roads.

Relieving congestion on I-35, U.S. 281, and Loop 1604 remains a top priority for the district, and Sen. Campbell will continue to work with transportation officials to find an appropriate solution to keep our families safe and commerce moving.

### INVESTING IN WATER

In November, Texas voters approved \$2 billion from the Economic Stabilization Fund for critical water infrastructure. These investments will be recommended by the Texas Water Development Board to fund projects in the State Water Plan.



Sen. Campbell honors Team Jaxon for helping kids with cancer. Jaxon Davis was inducted into the Pay It Forward Hall of Fame for his generosity at age five.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 83<sup>RD</sup> LEGISLATURE

With population growth, critical water shortages will increase over the next 50 years, requiring a reliable funding source to finance water projects. Because these projects can be capital-intensive and put constraints on local communities, a dedicated source of funding is necessary to help develop this infrastructure. A \$2 billion investment will provide support for low-interest loans, longer loan repayment terms, and incremental repurchase terms for projects in which the state owns an interest.

# SUPPORTING VETERANS AND RETIRED TEACHERS

This was a great session for our retired teachers and veterans. With passage of SB 1458, the Legislature was able to shore up the Teacher Retirement Fund so it remains solvent and give retired teachers their first cost of living adjustment increase in over a decade.

Senator Campbell sponsored or authored several bills to assist veterans and their families. HB 120 waives fees for specialty license plates for recipients of the Defense Superior Service Medal, and HB 1514 provides privileged parking for World War II veterans. SB 1373 commemorates the Honor and Remember Flag as a way to pay tribute to our veterans at state offices on specific holidays like Memorial Day.

In November, voters approved an ad valorem tax exemption for the surviving spouse of a member of the armed forces killed in action. The Legislature



Sen. Campbell and Rep. Jason Isaac break ground on a new bome for Army Specialist Justin Perez-Gorda presented by Homes for Our Troops.

also transferred the administration of tuition and fee exemptions for veterans and their families to the Texas Veterans Commission and set up a permanent fund to offset the costs when a veteran transfers that exemption to a child.

Sen. Campbell strongly believes in honoring those who have sacrificed to serve our country and fight for our freedom. She considers her appointment to the Veterans Affairs and Military Installations Committee one of the most important duties of her service to the State of Texas.



Sen. Donna Campbell welcomes the 4-H Club of Seguin to her Capitol office to honor their community service.

General Information..

Texas Abuse/Neglect Hotline..

### USEFUL STATE GOVERNMENT TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

Medicaid Estate Recovery Program...(800) 458-9858 Long Term Care Ombudsman Office.. (800) 252-2412 Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Office of Consumer Affairs Hotline (800) 233-3405

.. (800) 628-5115

.....(800) 252-5400

Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner
Consumer Credit Helpline(800) 538-1579
Office of the Attorney General
Child Support(800) 252-8014
Consumer Protection Hotline(800) 621-0508
Crime Victim's Compensation(800) 983-9933
Public Information and Assistance (800) 252-8011
Office of the Governor
Citizen's Assistance Hotline(800) 843-5789
Citizen's Opinion Hotline(800) 252-9600
Public Utility Commission(512)936-7000
Consumer Protection Division(888)782-8477
Texas No Call List Registration (866) TXNOCAL
Social Security Administration(800) 772-1213
State Bar of Texas
Grievance Information(800) 932-1900
Lawyer Referral Service(800) 252-9690
Texas Commission for Civil Rights (888) 452-4778
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Hotline(888) 777-3186
Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services
Area Agencies on Aging(800) 252-9240
Consumer Rights/Services(800) 458-9858
Complaint and Intake Management (800) 458-9858
<u>*</u>

Office of Consumer Affairs Hourie (800) 255-5405		
Texas Runaway Hotline(888) 580-HELP		
Texas Youth Hotline(800) 210-2278		
Foster Care and Adoption Inquiry Hotline (800) 233-3405		
Texas Department of State Health Services		
Immunizations(800) 252-9152		
Substance Abuse Services(866) 378-8440		
WIC(800) 942-3678		
Texas HIV/STD Infoline(800) 299-AIDS		
Family and Community Services (800) 422-2956		
Mental Health Consumer Rights(800) 252-8154		
Texas Health and Human Services Commission		
24-Hour Information and Referral Network 211		
Ombudsman Office(877) 787-8999		
Disaster Assistance(800) 582-5233		
Medicaid Hotline(800) 252-8263		
Cash and Nutrition Assistance(800) 252-9330		

Medicaid Eligibility for Elde	rly & Disabled
	(888) 834-740
SSI-related Food Stamp Bene	efits(800) 248-107
Texas Department of Crimina	l Justice
Crime Victim Clearinghouse	(800) 848-428
Offender Status Line	(800) 535-028
Texas Department of Housing an	d Community Affairs
Hotline	
Texas Department of Insurance	ce
Information and Assistance	(800) 252-343
Division of Workers' Compe	nsation
Injured Worker Hotline	(800) 252-703
Safety Violations Hotline	(800) 452-959
Texas Department of Public S	afety
Emergency Roadside Assista	nce(800) 525-555
Missing Persons Clearinghor	use(800) 346-324
Texas Crime Stoppers Hotlin	e(800) 252-TIP
Texas Medical Board	
Consumer Complaint Hotlin	ie(800) 201-935
Texas Veterans Commission	
Veterans Hotline	(800) 252-VET
Texas Workforce Commission	
Unemployment Insurance H	otline(800) 558-832

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 83RD LEGISLATURE

### **PRO-LIFE LEGISLATION**

With persistence and determination, the Texas Legislature passed key pro-life provisions to protect our tiniest and most vulnerable Texans. HB 2 bans late-term abortions at 5 months or 20 weeks, when scientific evidence shows a baby in the womb can feel pain. The bill also ensures abortion facilities are up to the same minimum health and safety standards as the 416 outpatient surgical centers across the state and strengthens the patient-doctor relationship by requiring doctors who perform abortions to have hospital admitting privileges.

### **DEFENDING OUR SECOND AMENDMENT**

To better secure our families, Sen. Campbell authored SB 864, which streamlines CHL courses. Acquiring a concealed-handgun license will now be a shorter, more efficient process while the same proficiency standards remain in place. As a result, more law-abiding Texans will have access to obtain their concealed-handgun license and exercise their God-given right to defend themselves. The Legislature also passed Second Amendment legislation which cuts red tape and allows CHL renewals to be completed online.



Sen. Donna Campbell presents San Antonio area business owners with the Texas Treasure Award for their commitment to customer service and over 50 years in business.

# Honoring Extraordinary Texans

One of the greatest privileges of being in the Legislature is honoring the many annual achievements of extraordinary Texans. This is a list of some of the individuals, organizations, and businesses Sen. Campbell had the opportunity to recognize with honorary resolutions on the Senate floor:

Boerne Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership New Braunfels National Organization for Rare Disorders Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom **Comal County** William Alloway Tessye B. Maurer Madison Albrecht Kaitlyn Dehaven Kristin Cade Anne Cornell and Aaron Mason Wanda Carter Robert Paul Johnson Susan Angell-Gonzalez Department of Public Safety High School Republicans Gary W. Raba Marc Rodriguez BG Joyce L. Stevens Antonio Luna New Braunfels Regional Airport

Cox Manufacturing Ebensberger-Fisher Funeral Home Frontier Enterprises New Braunfels Smokehouse Starke Furniture J.R. Mooney Galleries of Fine Art Voices of Children San Antonio The University of Texas System Texas A&M University System Texas State University St. Mary's University Citizens of West 4-H Clubs of Texas Texas Federation of Republican Women Deborah 'Borah' Van Dormolen (Memorial) Mary Lou Grier (Memorial) Jaxon Reese Davis (Memorial) LCPL John Farias (Memorial) Sgt. Glenn M. Sewell (Memorial) Specialist Omar Soltero (Memorial) Capt. Tyler Voss (Memorial)

# PRAYING TOGETHER

Every day in the Senate starts with an invocation. A special thanks to all the pastors from our district who came up to the Capitol to lead the Senate in prayer. Participating pastors included Pastor Ken Baldwin, Pastor Ken Hicks, Pastor Ryan Rush, Pastor Kevin Lentz, Pastor Robert Emmitt, Pastor John Hagee, Chaplain Michael Bingaman, and Pastor Don Duncan. Thanks for delivering thoughtful words of hope, faith, and courage during the 83rd Legislature. Your prayers helped inspire every senator to strive their best and work together for the people of Texas.



Sen. Campbell with Governor Perry and Pastor Robert Emmitt after leading the Senate in prayer.









PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 2468 AUSTIN, TEXAS

# I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you have any questions about legislation passed during the 83rd Legislature or want to suggest ideas for legislation going forward, please don't hesitate to contact my office. I am here to work for you and serve your interests. In addition to our Capitol office, you may contact or visit one of our district offices in San Antonio or New Braunfels. I know these issues are as important to you as they are to me. Let's keep Texas strong and our families free and prosperous!



## CONTACT SENATOR CAMPBELL

CAPITOL OFFICE:

ROOM 3E.8

P.O. BOX 12068

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512) 463-0125

FAX: (512) 463-7794

DIAL 711 FOR RELAY CALLS

9601 MCALLISTER FREEWAY STE. 150 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78216 (210) 979-0013 NEW BRAUNFELS OFFICE: 1902 E. COMMON ST. STE. 500 NEW BRAUNFELS, TX 78130 (830) 626-0065

E-OFFICE

E-MAIL: DONNA.CAMPBELL@SENATE.STATE.TX.US • WWW.SENATE.STATE.TX.US