

T E X A S S E N A T O R

Donna Campbell

Highlights of the 85th Legislature



Dear Fellow Texan,

It's been an extraordinary year. Our state has seen its share of triumphs and tragedies. Our economy continues to produce more jobs than any other state - nearly 400,000 over the past 12 months - as we rebuild from the havoc caused by Hurricane Harvey.

The Texas Legislature had a very busy session last year, passing a fiscally conservative budget that protected tax cuts while dedicating new funds for child protective services, public education, first responders, and border security.

As Chair of the Veteran Affairs and Border Security Committee, it was my honor to pass the Help for Texas Heroes Act and increase access to mental healthcare for veterans and their families. We expanded the College Credit for Heroes Act, established Texas Military Heroes Day, and strengthened employment opportunities for Texans while enhancing the mission of our state's 15 military installations.

Unfortunately, our state experienced two unexpected tragedies in Sutherland Springs and at Santa Fe High School. Many important questions face legislators in the wake of these heartbreaking events, and I am proud of Governor Abbott's leadership in putting forth policy solutions. Based on school security interim hearings and conversations with constituents, I am confident Texas will pass necessary reforms and emerge stronger than ever.

Working together I know we can build on our previous successes and improve the lives of all Texans. I look forward to working hard to represent your values and keep Texas strong. After all, we don't have another Texas to move to!

Thanks and God bless Texas,

Donna Campbell, M.D.

SENATOR CAMPBELL'S COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

**VETERAN AFFAIRS AND
BORDER SECURITY - CHAIR**

BUSINESS & COMMERCE

EDUCATION

FINANCE

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS**

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORMULA FUNDING**

**SELECT COMMITTEE
ON AGING - CHAIR**

**SELECT COMMITTEE
ON CYBERSECURITY**

Senator Campbell is an emergency room physician, a woman of faith, and the 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 LEGISLATURE

GIVING BACK TO OUR VETERANS

There is no more honorable profession and no greater title of valor than to be called a veteran. As Chair of the Veteran Affairs and Border Security Committee, it is my privilege to work on legislation that has a positive impact for our veterans. This year, we emphasized mental health care in our committee and passed a number of bills to improve access for veterans and their families.

The latest figures from the Veterans Administration suggest that approximately 20 veterans lose their lives every day to suicide. I authored Senate Bill 27, the Help for Texas Heroes Act, to reduce that figure and increase the number of full-time licensed mental health professionals dedicated to working with veterans, particularly in rural areas. This legislation was championed by Lieutenant Governor Patrick and enthusiastically signed into law by Governor Abbott, building on the success of our state's Veterans Mental Health Program.

In addition, I authored and the Legislature passed SB 1901 to establish Texas Military Heroes Day, which sets aside a day for

Texas schools to teach students about the heroism and sacrifice of Texans who have served our state and nation.

We also expanded the College Credit for Heroes Act, which has helped 25,000 veterans and military service members turn their military training into college credit hours. The bill directs the Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Veterans Commission to help service members attain a college degree more quickly by creating a standardized curricula to ensure earned credit hours are transferable at all public universities.

INVESTING IN OUR MILITARY

While serving our national security interest, our state's 15 military installations also contribute nearly \$140 billion to the economy and are responsible for employing 900,000 Texans. That makes protecting our bases critical to promote prosperity and job creation in our state.

Members of the Veteran Affairs and Border Security Committee were successful in obtaining \$20 million for Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grants, or DEAAG, to boost the military

value of our bases. These funds will be dispersed across the state to protect the military mission of our installations and prevent future rounds of BRAC (Base Realignment And Closure).

Additionally, I authored and the Legislature passed SB 277, the Mission Preparedness Protection Act, to prevent wind turbines from being built too close to our state's military aviation bases - where they can interfere with radar, impact flight paths, and threaten the safety of our pilots.

IMPROVING EDUCATION

I am a passionate supporter of public education in Texas. As a member of the Education Committee, I share Governor Abbott's goal of making Texas the number one state in the nation for high performing schools and helping more students attain the necessary skills to succeed in college and enter the workforce.

During the 85th Legislature, we increased funding for our public schools, including \$530 million for new enrollment growth and \$230 million for high quality pre-k. In addition, we provided \$120 million for facilities funding with \$60 million going to fast-growth



Honoring 101 year-old WWII hero, Lt. Col. Richard E. Cole, and the Doolittle Raiders on the Senate Floor.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LEGISLATURE



At the signing ceremony for HB 13, pro-life legislation, with Governor Abbott and House bill authors.

public schools and \$60 million for high quality charter schools. This investment will help bring our public school campuses into the 21st century and reduce the 140,000 student charter school waiting list.

We also passed legislation to expand the virtual school network program (SB 587) for children of military service members so that they do not have to enroll full time in a public school before taking online courses. Again, this measure will help bring the Texas education system into the 21st century and allow our students to compete with the brightest in the world.

I was also proud to sponsor legislation requiring an increased focus on civics (SB 174 and HB 1291), and specifically America's Founding Principles. While time ultimately ran out and these bills failed to pass, they will be top priorities next session. We cannot preserve a productive, civil, and democratic society without teaching the values and principles on which our great nation was founded.

PROTECTING TEXANS' PROPERTY RIGHTS

One of the most important reforms of the legislative session almost didn't pass due to a last minute filibuster. Fortunately, the Texas Annexation Right to Vote Act became a rallying cry for homeowners and property rights proponents during last summer's special session. Thanks to your hard work, Senate Bill 6 was signed into law by Governor Abbott on August 15, 2017.

Senate Bill 6, or the Texas Annexation Right to Vote Act, protects property owners from involuntary annexation and gives residents a greater say in the municipal annexation process. It is simply wrong to force citizens who live outside the jurisdiction of a city to be absorbed as an exercise in government expansion just to increase a city's tax base.

Successful passage of SB 6 means cities in counties with a population of 500,000 or more will now be required to gain the consent of the majority of registered voters - by petition if the area is fewer than 200 residents or by an election if the number of residents is over 200

- in order to annex the area. For counties with a population less than 500,000, residents may petition their county commissioners for an election to gain the right to vote.

Texans have a right to determine who governs them, and this bipartisan bill restores the power of the people to protect the ideals of our democracy.

HONORING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

The heroes behind the badge are some of the most courageous men and women in our state. They risk their lives every day to keep Texans safe.

Sadly, Texas has lost more police officers in the line of duty than any other state.

For the families who suffer such a devastating loss in service to our communities, we have a commitment to make sure they will not face further hardships. I authored Senate Joint Resolution 1 to create a homestead property tax exemption for the surviving spouse of a first responder killed or fatally injured in the line of duty. The enabling legislation, SB

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LEGISLATURE

15, was authored and passed by members of the Dallas delegation in memory of the fallen officers who were tragically killed in 2016 while protecting protestors.

SJR 1 and SB 15 were among five pieces of legislation championed to support law enforcement officers during the legislative sessions. They both passed overwhelmingly as part of Proposition 6 on the November ballot. In addition, we passed the Police Protection Act to increase penalties for crimes against law enforcement - making it a hate crime to assault a police officer - and invested \$25 million for protective body armor for our officers.

EASING A MOTHER'S BURDEN

In 2015, I authored Wyatt's Law in memory of Wyatt McDaniel, a San Antonio boy who tragically lost his life in a sandlot accident. Wyatt's accident was made all the more heartbreaking by the bureaucratic nightmare that followed. After the accident, his mother Lara was kept from seeing or saying goodbye to Wyatt because of poorly written laws. Unfortunately, that 2015 bill failed to pass.

When the 85th Legislature convened, I made a promise to



Celebrating passage of David's Law to stop cyberbullying with Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, Sen. Menéndez, and the Molak Family.

Lara McDaniel that we would try again to get this bill over the finish line and protect other moms from having to experience the same trauma she went through.

There is no reason why a parent should be prohibited from viewing their child's body after an accident, even if they are supervised. I filed Wyatt's Law to secure Lara's right, and every parent's right, to say goodbye to their child should the unthinkable happen.

The blessing of perseverance is success, and it was a blessing to

have Lara McDaniel by my side to help gain this victory for all Texas parents.

A TEXAS HERO

In March, the Senate honored Lt. Col. Dick Cole, the last remaining survivor of the Doolittle Raiders. Lt. Col. Cole is a 101 year-old veteran who currently resides in Comfort, Texas. It was my privilege to honor this Texas hero for his bravery, as well as the sacrifice of all the Doolittle Raiders, with an honorary resolution on the 75th Anniversary of their mission.

In 1942 Lt. Col. Cole and his fellow airmen carried out one of the most daring missions in U.S. history - requiring a one-way flight to drop bombs on Japan and parachute into the Chinese wilderness.

Because of the efforts of the Doolittle Raiders, America successfully stunted Japanese war efforts, saving countless lives.

If there was a highlight during the 85th Legislature, it was the chance to personally meet Lt. Col. Cole and thank him for his service. Few days have brought more members to tears on the Senate Floor than the day we paid tribute to these brave heroes.



Recognizing Seguin Police Dept. Deputy Chief Bruce Ure for his courageous efforts to save lives during the tragic shooting in Las Vegas.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LEGISLATURE



Opening of the new district office in New Braunfels.

2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- ★ Hurricane Harvey was the costliest storm to hit Texas and the second costliest to hit the United States. Recovery and rebuilding efforts are well underway, but they come at a price. Because property tax revenue plays a key role in a school district's budget, the Legislature will likely have to dip into the Rainy Day Fund to help some schools impacted by the storm.
- ★ Highway funding has been a priority for the past six years. Thanks to support for two constitutional propositions, we have added roughly \$4 billion a year to road and highway infrastructure without raising taxes. As Central Texas continues to lead the nation in population growth, prioritizing non-toll improvements along the I-35 corridor between San Antonio and Austin is critical.

- ★ The Texas Senate, led by Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, championed bills that would have lowered property taxes for homeowners last session, but we will have to try again in 2019 to pass meaningful property tax reform. We must keep government spending in check and make homes more affordable for families living in Texas.
- ★ Finally, after the tragic shooting at Santa Fe High School, we will introduce legislation to make our schools safer, prompt law enforcement to be more involved in patrolling around schools and communicating with administrators, and provide more mental health resources for students. Our children should always be safe at school.



Thanking Spurs Legend David Robinson for his dedication to public education and charter schools.

SENATOR CAMPBELL BILLS PASSED DURING 85TH LEGISLATURE

**TOTAL BILLS AUTHORED: 108 BILLS PASSED IN SENATE: 59
EFFECTIVE OR SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR: 53**

WYATT'S LAW:

SB 239

VETERAN AFFAIRS:

SB 27, SB 277, SB 588, SB 751, SB 1843,
SB 1844, HB 3069, SB 1845,
SB 1901, HB 377,
HB 493, HCR 122

EDUCATION:

SB 457, SB 587, SB 601, SB 671
SB 1005, SB 1883

BALLOTS & ELECTIONS:

SB 5, SB 752, SB 957

GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY:

SB 200, SB 510, SB 564, SB 1440

CRIMINAL JUSTICE:

SB 323, SB 395/HB 1424
SB 2060/HB 1866

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

SJR 1, SB 1138

CONVENTION OF STATES:

SB 21, SJR 2

BUSINESS & COMMERCE:

SB 29/HB 89, SB 550, SB 1176, SB 1199, SB 1400,
SB 1401, SB 1402, SB 1403, SB 1797/HB 3329

PRO-LIFE:

SB 8, HB 13

HEALTHCARE:

SB 1066, SB 1075/HB 271, SB 1148, SB 1406

ANNEXATION REFORM:

SB 6

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM:

HB 3859

LOCAL:

SB 914, SB 1198, SB 2245, SB 2255, SB 2263
SB 2273, SB 2292, HCR 70

SPECIAL SESSION:

SB 6, HB 13

SENATE PAGE FOR A DAY

Among the unique opportunities available for students who live in the district is the Texas Senate Page for a Day Program. During the legislative session, students between 6 and 18 years old can serve as an Honorary Page as the Senate conducts its regular order of business. Shifts are three hours and can be arranged by contacting my Capitol office. It is a great way for students to see the inner workings of government up close!



Donna Campbell

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I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please don't hesitate to contact my office with your comments or feedback. I am here to work for you and look forward to hearing the issues that you feel are most important. In addition to our Capitol office, you may contact or visit one of our district offices in San Antonio or New Braunfels. Together let's keep Texas strong for our children and grandchildren!

DCampbellMD



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