



August 6, 2021

Dear Friends,

The first called Special Session of the 87th Texas Legislature is nearly concluded and I am proud that the Texas Senate has accomplished the agenda the Governor set forth for the Legislature.

However...

Regardless of the swift action taken by the Texas Senate, this legislation remains unfinished as the House did not have maintain quorum due to political dynamics. Governor Abbott has pledged to call a second special session almost immediately upon the conclusion of the first special session and I am confident that when the Texas House meets their quorum requirements, the Texas Legislature will take action on important unfinished business.

I am committed to "**Listen, Learn, and Lead**" and the goal of this newsletter is to keep you informed while also providing an opportunity for you to share your thoughts with me. As always, contact me if I can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

Special Session Priorities Completed

Status	Bill Number	Governor's Called Topic
✓	Senate Bill 1	Legislation strengthening the integrity of elections in Texas. Senate Bill 1 makes it easier to vote and harder to cheat in Texas elections.
✓	Senate Bill 2	Legislation to protect girls' sports by basing participation on a student's sex at birth.
✓	Senate Bill 3	Legislation to ensure the curriculum adopted within the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills prohibits the teaching of critical race theory and that informed American Patriotism is included.
✓	Senate Bill 4	Legislation which prohibits people from providing abortion-inducing drugs by mail or delivery service, strengthens the laws applicable to the reporting of abortions and abortion complications, and ensures that no abortion-inducing drugs are provided unless there is voluntary and informed consent.
✓	Senate Bill 5	Legislation safeguarding the freedom of speech by protecting users from being censored by social-media companies based on the user's expressed viewpoints, including by providing a legal remedy for those wrongfully excluded from a platform.
✓	Senate Bill 6 & Senate Joint Resolution 3	<p>Legislation reforming the bail system in Texas to protect the public from accused criminals who may be released on bail.</p> <p>There have too many stories of violent criminals released on bail in Texas who have turned around and committed another violent crime. Bail reform should allow for those who are arrested on low-level offenses to receive bail individuals arrested for violent crimes who have repeat offenses have harder hurdles to</p>
✓	Senate Bill 7	Legislation to provide a "13th check" to our retired teachers.
✓	Senate Bill 8 Senate Bill 12 Senate Joint Resolution 4	Legislation to provide for additional property tax relief for homeowners.
✓	Senate Bill 72	Legislation requiring schools to provide appropriate education to middle- and high-school students about dating violence, domestic violence, and child abuse, and that recognizes the right of parents to opt their children out of the instruction.
	Senate Bill 10	<p>Legislation providing appropriations to the Legislature and legislative agencies in Article X of the General Appropriations Act.</p> <p>This legislation is pending in the Senate until the House Democrats return from their quorum break to conduct business, which is holding up pay and benefits for the 2,100 state employees who support the legislative process.</p>

No COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates

I have received numerous calls from constituents expressing concern over vaccine mandates.

The COVID-19 vaccines are on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) emergency use authorization list, but not on the FDA approved list. Some employers are requiring their employees to receive the vaccine as a condition of continued employment - a vaccine that is not yet fully approved. Many Texans feel pressured into receiving the vaccine without knowing the full personal health risks. Many Texans will remain skeptical of the COVID-19 vaccine until the personal health risks are more fully understood, both short-term and long-term.

During the regular session of the Texas Legislature, which ended in May 2021, I filed Senate Bill 2245 which would prohibit an employer from firing or discriminating against an employee due to the employee exercising their right to not get a COVID-19 vaccination. Unfortunately, this legislation did not pass. During the first called Special Session, which began in July 2021, I filed Senate Bill 77 as the employee protections are unfinished business that the legislature must continue to pursue.

It is vital that individuals maintain the right to choose vaccines, especially in light of the evolving science surrounding the virus and considering the vaccine has not yet received full approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. I am not opposed to vaccinations, but individuals need to know their personal health risks. There are currently too many unknowns and uncertainties with the long-term effects of the COVID-19 vaccine for vaccines to be mandated, either by the government or private employers.