

# Capitol Update

SENATOR BRANDON CREIGHTON



84th Legislative Session

Hello from your Texas Capitol!

We have passed the 60 day mark in legislative session and bills are now being heard on the floor of the Senate. Check out some of the highlights from this week.

## Under the Dome

**Right to Hunt & Fish:** On Monday, I had the opportunity to present SJR 22, the "Right to Hunt and Fish Act", to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs. SJR 22 establishes our constitutional right to hunt and fish stating that hunting and fishing shall be a preferred means of managing and conserving wildlife in the State of Texas. Hunting and fishing are activities that have been inherently passed down from generation to generation and engrained in our state's heritage. But, in this day and age, with recent lawsuits and certain efforts with the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, our heritage is threatened and needs protection.

**Open Carry:** Tuesday, we passed Senate Bill 17 on licensed Open Carry by a vote of 20-10 in the Senate. As a co-author of the bill, I'm appreciative of the deliberative discussion we had on the floor and for your input on this issue. Our state is only 1 of 6 states that doesn't permit their law-abiding citizens to openly carry a handgun in public. Texans respect the Second Amendment and deserve much more than the restrictions New York, Illinois, and California hold on their citizens. There is a strong sentiment in the Texas Legislature to strengthen the Second Amendment and that's what we accomplished with the passage of S.B. 17 this week.



**Campus Carry:** On Thursday, Senate Bill 11, the "Campus Personal Protection Act" passed the Senate by a vote of 20-11. As legislators, it is our obligation to make sure Texas and her law-abiding citizens are safe. There is no such thing as a "gun-free" zone. That is why 23 other states that have passed concealed carry laws allow license-holders to carry on campus. Having authored similar campus carry measures in the past, it is a pleasure to be a joint author of S.B. 11. Its Senate passage reaffirms the right of Texas CHL-holders to self-defense on college campuses. Our faculty, staff, and students deserve a fighting chance to protect themselves from bad actors intent on doing harm.

**Legislative Agenda:** This year, I have filed legislation ranging from state sovereignty to issues that affect our everyday lives in Senate District 4. Below are a few key bills to look out for this session:

- **SJR 1 & SB 1761 - State Sovereignty:** SJR 1 fights federal overreach, asserting the message to Washington D.C. the powers not delegated to the nation by the Constitution are reserved to the states or to the people. SB 1761, the RASP Act" prevents federal environmental regulations that would inhibit Texas' ability to effectively power itself from being implemented.
- **SB 14 & SB 1825 - Education:** I am a co-author of SB 14, which would strengthen our schools and empower parents by allowing parents of children in a failing school to petition for the reconstitution, repurposing, alternative management, or closure of low-performing public campuses after two years instead of the current statute of five years. SB 1825 would allow the TEA Commissioner to extend the authority of the board of managers for an additional two years if there has been insufficient progress made toward improving the academic or financial performance within their first two years of being appointed.
- **SB 187 - Medicaid Fraud:** SB 187 is one of my signature bills from last session that strengthens laws related to Medicaid fraud by clarifying that money returned isn't a defense to the prosecution. Stealing and wasting of taxpayer money should not be tolerated.
- **SB 186, 330, 331 & SJR 23 - Franchise Tax Reform:** SB 186 seeks to repeal the tax by 2020 and require that in the interim Comptroller of Public Accounts Glenn Hegar find alternative revenue sources to replace funds lost by the state. SB 330, 331 and SJR 23 seek to halt the taxation on businesses that are above the \$1 million annual revenue margin but did not generate profit and propose a franchise tax rebate program to benefit businesses.
- **SB 1230 - Transparency:** This bill requires the 50 largest school districts in Texas to maintain certain financial information on their website.
- **SB 1759 - Transportation Safety:** This bill would tighten regulations in the state of Texas to prevent accidents incurred by unsecured objects attached to vehicles in-tow.



### Senate "Page for a Day" Program

Thank you to our recent Texas Senate pages from Senate District 4. I hope you had a fun and insightful day learning how the Texas Legislature operates and experiencing our state's lawmaking process first-hand!

Pictured below: Sophie Sattlewhite, Taylor Bybee, Sean Malone, Nathan Wagaman, Ellie Grace Branick, Peyton Capps, Taylor Petty and Claire Brown.



## In the News

- Senate Passage of Campus Carry, *KLVI 560AM*
- Texas Senate officially passes open carry legislation, *Conroe Courier*
- LEGISLATURE: Texas senators hope to nix red light cameras, *Cypress Creek Mirror*

## Get Social

One of the simplest ways to keep up with our office and all that occurs at the Texas State Capitol during legislative session is following us on social media. We will be posting updates regularly, so please take a moment to 'LIKE' us on Facebook, 'FOLLOW' us on Twitter, or subscribe to our YouTube page!