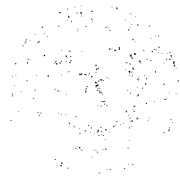


Chair, Higher Education Committee
Executive Budget Board



Judith Zaffirini
State Senator, District 21
President Pro Tempore, 1997

Committees
Administration
Economic Development
Finance
Health and Human Services

June 19, 2009

The Honorable
Rick Perry, Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your leadership in attempting to resolve the issue of proportionality for health benefits for eligible community college personnel. Ken Armbrister of your staff used his impressive skills to help craft the compromise that was passed overwhelmingly by the House of Representatives and had as many as 27 votes in the Senate.

After SB 41 by Zaffirini and HB 2083 by Representative Burt Solomons and Zaffirini were killed in the Senate Finance Committee, the compromise that HB 2083 embodied was amended into my SB 42, relating to the eligibility of certain employees, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students to participate in health benefit programs at public institutions of higher education. Unfortunately, this bill died in the Senate when a majority voted to adjourn *sine die*. To resolve proportionality and preclude unnecessary controversy in 2011, I request that you include this issue in your call for a special session.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff regarding this and other important issues. Feel free to call upon me whenever I can be assistance.

Very truly yours,


Judith Zaffirini

JZ/bw