



Serving the counties of District 2: Fannin, Delta, Hunt, Hopkins, Rains, Rockwall, Kaufman, Van Zandt, and part of Dallas County

The First Called Session of the 87th Texas Legislature

Yesterday - July 8th, 2021 - at 10:00am, the 87th Texas Legislature gavelled into its first called session; also called "special session," these called sessions differ from the regular session held earlier this year in that they are limited to only 30 days, are called at the discretion of the Texas governor, and may only address the topics the governor chooses.

The topics (subject to change) which the governor has selected for this special session are:

1. Bail reform;
2. Election integrity;
3. Border security;
4. Social media censorship;
5. Article X funding (Article X is the portion of the state budget that funds the legislature);
6. Family violence prevention;
7. Youth sports and the transgender issue;
8. Abortion-inducing drugs;
9. The "thirteenth check," which refers to a one-time supplemental payment of benefits to retired teachers;
10. Critical race theory; and
11. Appropriations, specifically:
 - o property-tax relief;
 - o funding private providers for the foster-care system; and
 - o protecting the state from cybersecurity threats.

After attending 16 town halls and legislative session recap events, it is apparent to me that some of Texas citizens' top concerns are not addressed on this initial list of policy topics.

In order to address some of the concerns, which my constituents have stated are important to them, I have filed bills on two topics in hopes that they will be added by the Governor in a second list of policy topics for this special session:

- Protecting individual choice regarding medical procedures.
- Prohibiting child gender modification treatments and procedures.

The COVID-19 passport ban, Senate Bill 968, protects customers from vaccine mandates, but not employees in Texas.

One bill on this topic would guarantee that employers must honor an employee's right to vaccine exemptions for medical reasons or for reasons of conscience, such as a religious or other personal belief. The other bill would completely resolve the question of employees and their medical freedom by shielding them entirely from any sort of vaccine or immunization requirement.



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While issues surrounding medical freedom and bodily autonomy have been around for quite some time, the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic and the experimental mRNA vaccines used to prevent it have brought this question to the front of our minds: should individuals retain complete control over what is put into their body?

Our entire system of government is based upon protecting the personal liberties of individuals. Of all the rights which could fall under this category, certainly personal bodily autonomy is at the forefront.

There is nothing inherently wrong with putting safety precautions like helmets and vests in place for the protection of employees and customers. However, an employee may remove a helmet or a vest at the end of a workday. A vaccine cannot be removed.

Also, I have refiled a bill similar to Senate Bill 1311 from the Regular 87th Legislative Session, in anticipate of the possibility the Governor may add child gender mutilation to an additional list.

Countless Texans wish to see the end of the terrible, irresponsible, and barbaric practice of child gender modification in our state. This differs from the vaccine question of bodily autonomy, because the individuals being protected are minors who are incapable of fully grasping the implications of undergoing a gender transition.

In case you missed it, prior to the start of the special session, I wrote a letter to the governor asking for these topics to be added to his list. I requested that we address health freedom and the prohibition of vaccine mandates, as well as the prohibition of child mutilation by ending gender modification treatments and procedures. In addition, I requested that he add border security as well.

There is still time for these topics to be addressed by the special session, if the governor adds them to the call.

Just like the regular session, I am approaching this convening of the 87th Texas Legislature special session with hope and optimism.

I humbly ask for prayer for wisdom on both my behalf and that of my fellow legislators and the governor as we move forward on issues important to the people of Texas.

