



John Zerwas, M.D.

State Representative

District 28

Capitol Update - May 6, 2011

Legislative Update

House Bill 2903

HB 2903 by Representative Zerwas relates to the program of all-inclusive care for the elderly. The PACE model integrates acute and long term care services which is financed through a combination of Medicare and Medicaid. Seniors with chronic care needs will receive the full spectrum of preventive and primary care while allowing the individual to live as independently as possible. The PACE program saves Medicaid and Medicare payers an estimated 14% cost per member per annum compared to nursing home costs. HB 2903 was passed out of the House on Thursday.

House Bill 2941

HB 2941 by Representative Zerwas relates to the intercollegiate athletics fee at Prairie View A&M University. Prairie View A&M is a Division I school and relies on the revenue taken in from a student athletic fee to provide athletic scholarships and maintain their athletic program. With the approval of 75% of the student, this bill would increase that fee by \$2.50. This bill was heard before the Higher Education Committee on Wednesday.

Senate Bill 321

SB 321, relating to an employee's transportation and storage of certain firearms or ammunition while on certain property owned or controlled by the employee's employer, was passed out of the House on Wednesday. This bill would allow an individual to store a locked and unloaded firearm in their vehicle that is parked in their employer's parking lot. This bill represents an expansion of the second amendment rights of Texans. SB 321 was passed out of the House on Wednesday.

Conference Committee

Chairman Pitts of the House Appropriations Committee appointed Representative Zerwas to the conference committee for House Bill 1, the general appropriations bill. The conference committee is made up of 10 members from the House and Senate and is responsible for reconciling the differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget before it is sent to the Governor's desk.

Fight Arthritis Pain Month

On Tuesday, Representative Zerwas recognized May as Fight Arthritis Pain Month. In Texas, 24% of adults suffer from arthritis. In the United States, more than 300,000 children have been diagnosed with arthritis. The goal of Fight Arthritis Pain Month is to increase awareness of the disease and the state arthritis plan set forth by the Texas Department of State Health Services. Representative Zerwas also recognized a group of arthritis advocates who were in the House gallery on Tuesday.

Legislative Resources

There are a multitude of resources available to the public that can help an individual follow the legislative process. From audio and video archives to a legislative bill search portal, the House website provides plenty of helpful links and information. Please visit www.house.state.tx.us for more information.

Capitol Visits

If you would like to set up a Capitol tour through Representative Zerwas's office, please send an email to caroline.dickerson@house.state.tx.us. Due to the amount of individuals visiting the Capitol during session, please give our office at least two weeks notice from when you would like to schedule the tour.



If you would like to view previous newsletters, please visit www.johnzerwas.com.

The floor of the House of Representatives.