



John Zerwas, M.D.

State Representative

District 28

Capitol Update - March 11, 2011

Legislative Update

House Bill 610

HB 610 was heard before the Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday morning. This legislation would require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to use electronic means of communication when corresponding notices, information and requests to the legislature. HB 610 reflects an effort to promote greater efficiencies within the government and reduce costs to the taxpayers of Texas. This is Representative Zerwas's second piece of legislation to be heard in committee this session.

Governor's Emergency Items

The Governor's emergency items are pieces of legislation that the Governor has designated as a priority for the Legislature to pass. Below are several emergency items designated by the Governor.

House Bill 15

HB 15, requiring that a sonogram be conducted before an abortion is performed, was passed out on third reading on Monday.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 14

CSSB 14, relating to requirements to vote including presenting proof of identification, was heard before the House Select Committee on Voter Identification and Voter Fraud. The Committee voted in favor of the legislation on Monday. Representative Zerwas supports this legislation and intends to be a co-sponsor.

Senate Bill 18

Eminent domain is the taking of private property for public use without compensation. SB 18 addresses this issue by reforming the power of eminent domain in Texas, mandating that it be used for public, not private purposes and requiring that some type of compensation be given to the property owner. This legislation was created in reaction to the Kelo decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in June 2005. The decision stated that private property is not a fundamental civil right but a privilege granted by the state at its sole discretion. This decision is the reason that reform has been promoted for several years. Representative Zerwas is a Joint Author to HB 279, which is the House version of SB 18.



Rep. Zerwas, Rep. Callegari and Sen. Hegar met with local constituents from Waller County.

Waller County Day

Citizens and local officials gathered in Austin on March 9th for Waller County Day at the Capitol. The group met with Representative Zerwas and Senator Hegar during the afternoon. Participants also toured the State Capitol, the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum, and the Texas Supreme Court Building.

Jane Long Elementary

Seventy-seven 4th grade students from Jane Long Elementary School in Lamar Consolidated ISD visited Austin on Thursday for a field trip made possible by a Lamar Educational Awards Foundation grant. The 4th graders toured the Bob Bullock Museum and then gathered on the steps of the State Capitol to meet with Governor Perry and Representative Zerwas.

Honorary Page Program

The Honorary Page Program gives youth between the ages of eight and eighteen the opportunity to see the legislature in action. They will spend the day assisting House Sergeants on the House floor and around the Capitol. Please contact the Austin office at 512-463-0657 to inquire about the application



Governor Perry and Representative Zerwas met with the students from Jane Long Elementary.