

NTCL 83rd Texas Legislature Newsletter



Connecting the Citizens of North Texas with their elected officials in Austin

April 22, 2013

North Texas Citizens In Austin

By Chuck Molyneaux & Barbara Harless

Inside this issue:

North Texas Citizens In Austin	1
Give Up, Leave, or Fight!	2
Nullification of Obamacare in Texas	2
North Texas Citizens In Austin (continued)	3

The North Texas Citizens Lobby is made up of conservative citizens working together to lobby Texas State Senators, Representatives, and other elected officials to follow their oath of office and promote Constitutionally Limited Government, State and National Sovereignty, the Rule of Law, Fiscal Responsibility, and Personal Responsibility.

The NTCL made two separate trips to Austin last week; first on Monday and then again on Wednesday. Chuck Molyneaux led the group on Monday, followed by Barbara Harless and her group on Wednesday.

On Monday, the delegation participated in a press conference with other conservative grassroots organizations. They expressed our concerns about the gamesmanship that we see in the budgeting process which will ultimately result in the failure of the Governor and conservatives in the 83rd legislature to keep their commitments to fiscal responsibility. The event was successful and well attended by television, radio, and print media from Austin.



Chuck Molyneaux at the Monday press conference in Austin.

Chuck's Monday group then visited the offices of

Representatives Jodie Laubenberg, Jeff Leach, Pat Fallon, Scott Sanford, Van Taylor, and Scott Turner.

They also attend hearings on Judicial & Civil Jurisprudence and Land & Resource Management.

Collin County District Court Clerk Andrea Thompson was present to testify during the Judicial & Civil Jurisprudence committee meeting regarding recordkeeping procedures.

Terri Hall of TURF testified during the Land & Resource Management committee meeting regarding **eminent domain** as it relates to **HB 20**. This bill allows land taken with eminent domain to be returned to the original owner, if the condemning entity does not use the land for the use that it was originally taken.

On Wednesday, the delegation followed up from previous conversations with North Texas Representatives. In these conversations Rep. Pat Fallon mentioned his work on **HB 415**

and **HB 889**, and Rep. Scott Turner talked about his work on **HB 3489**. So on Wednesday, Barbara Harless' group contacted the Chairmen of Committees that are considering these bills.

On **HB 415**, which would provide for a two year "cooling off period" before past legislators can become lobbyists, they visited with Jordan Strassner in Rep.



From left to right: Teresa Beckmeyer, Barbara Harless, and Clint Stutts

Geanie Morrison's office. Rep. Morrison chairs the House Elections Committee where this bill has been stuck since February 11th. They **requested a hearing for this bill**.

On **HB 889**, Barbara's group visited the office of Rep. Todd Hunter, chairman of the Calendars Committee. There they spoke to Alex Scott and filled out

Continued on page 3

Give Up, Leave, or Fight!

By Ron Woodruff

Not only had I never visited my legislators or my state capital during an active session, I had really never been politically active in any significant way. I was too busy working and raising kids, with a little time left over to do some volunteer work for our church. But, thanks to our brave new world of political realities, I overcame my inertia and decided to give



up a few TV programs in order to try to actually do something to save all that is precious in what we stand for as Americans. After all, anyone who has serious concerns about the decline of our nation has only three choices – give up, leave, or work for change.

Although totally unprepared, I made the trip to Austin and found the entire experience to be inspiring. Our representatives were delighted to know that we are willing to work to support their efforts. Most went out of their way to meet with us, in spite of the non-stop hectic events of their day. We were even told that we were, “a breath of fresh air in an otherwise tension and pressure filled workplace”.

Will I go again to Austin as a citizen lobbyist? You bet. We can't do everything, but we can do something. Our only real choice is to fight.



Left to right: Ron Woodruff, Barbara Harless, Rep. Jeff Leach, and Dennis Scharp

Nullification of Obamacare in Texas

By Barbara Harless

HB 3785 effectively nullifies the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), aka **Obamacare**, and interposes against the taxes established by it, placing the Texas Secretary of State between Texans and unconstitutional mandates in PPAC.

The 10th Amendment establishes the fact that if a power was not delegated to the US government and not prohibited to the states, that power is reserved to the states and the people.

Thomas Jefferson (1798 & 1799 Kentucky Resolutions) and James Madison (Virginia Resolutions 1798) stated “*nullification...is the rightful remedy*” when the federal government reaches beyond its constitutional powers, and states are “*duty bound to resist*” when the federal government violates the Constitution.

No power is delegated to the federal government to make health care policy, and this power is not prohibited to the states, therefore the states

have the power to make health care policy.

Barbara Harless and 5 additional citizens testified **FOR passage of HB 3785** before the House Committee on Federalism & Fiscal Responsibility. **HB 3785 is a rightful remedy.**

Please contact Chairman Brandon Creighton, and urge that this bill be passed out of committee.
brandon.creighton@house.state.tx.us
512-463-0726

Representative Jeff Leach

By Mark Reid

North Texas is very well represented by outstanding conservatives in the Texas House and Senate. Freshman Representative Jeff Leach is no exception.

A lot of time is spent away from family during the legislative session, so it was great to hear that Rep. Leach's son, Brandy, was able to spend his

5th Birthday in Austin with his Dad. This gave Brandy the unique opportunity to lead the House Chamber in the Pledge of Allegiance. Glad to see Rep. Leach raising the next generation of Conservative leaders for Texas.

Happy Birthday Brandy!



North Texas Citizens In Austin

(Continued from page 1)

a card asking Rep. Hunter to **schedule HB 889 for a floor reading and a vote**. This bill would require counties, school districts, and municipalities with populations in excess of 50,000 to record, keep, and make available audio and video recordings of all “public” meetings. Collin County does this and the NTCL strongly supports this kind of transparency.

On **HB 3489**, which deals with honesty in college transcripts, they talked to Andrew Townsell in Rep. Dan Branch’s office. Rep. Branch chairs the Higher Education Committee where this bill has been pending since April 3rd. Barbara left a copy of the

bill with annotations by the NTCL Research Lead, Dennis Scharp. She asked Rep. Branch to act on these annotations and to **vote the bill favorably out of committee**. This bill would require that the average grade in each class would be included on college transcripts. This would provide employers with insight in to the difficulty of each class, as well as insight into “grade inflation” that is so common in universities. (43% of grades are A’s today as opposed to 15% in the 1960’s.)

The Wednesday delegation then went on to talk to the offices of Rep Byron Cook, Chair of the State Affairs Committee on **HB 1171**, which has to do

with “civil liability for certain damages caused by advanced meters.” This bill has been held up in the State Affairs Committee since February 20th, and **deserves a hearing**.

To close out the very busy day, Barbara testified in the House Federalism & Fiscal Responsibility committee in **support of HB 3785**, which deals with the nullification of Obamacare, then in **opposition to HCR 61** which inadequately deals with a federal balanced budget amendment, and registered in **support of HCR 38** which deals with a Parental Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

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