
STAKEHOLDER MEMORANDUM

TO: HOUSE DISTRICT 75 COMMUNITY LEADERS
FROM: OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARY GONZÁLEZ
SUBJECT: 2015 UPDATE MEMO
DATE: JUNE 11, 2015

January 2015 marked the beginning of the second term for Representative Mary González. This memo is intended to provide an update to community leaders regarding the work of our office from January 2015- June 2015.

- 1) **Committee Appointments** – Representative González was appointed to the House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock and Public Education. She is the first member of the El Paso Delegation to serve on the House Committee on Public Education since 1979.
- 2) **Legislation** – Representative González filed 56 pieces of legislation focused on the four pillars of Agriculture, Education, Social Justice, and Local and Infrastructure needs. Of these bills, 21 had committee hearings, eighteen were successfully voted out of committee, eight were voted out of the House of Representatives, and five have been signed by the governor. One final piece of legislation is awaiting the governor's signature.
 - a. **Senate Bill 1135 (House Bill 496), the Relationship Privacy Act** -After years of work with stakeholders and Senator Sylvia Garcia, the Relationship Privacy Act has been sent to the Governor for his signature. Once the Governor signs this bill, victims-- who had their intimate images shared without their consent—will now have a legal recourse. This bill provides both criminal penalties and civil remedies, and should serve as a model for addressing this issue for other states seeking to do the same. <http://m.amarillo.com/news/local-news/2015-05-05/revenge-porn-legislation-moves-forward-house#gsc.tab=0>
 - b. **House Bill 74-** addresses a need specific to El Paso County and secures a process for our rural communities to access housing funding through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.
 - c. **House Bill 75** -works to resolve an issue our local farmers co-ops struggled with regarding interpretation of existing statute.
 - d. **House Bill 77-** mandates a study of innovative initiatives to prevent domestic violence.
 - e. **House Bill 995-** creates a stormwater authority to address the stormwater flooding issues in Eastern El Paso County.
 - f. **Senate Bill 193 (House Bill 67)-** was the result of a constituent request to create license plates for recipients of the Soldier's Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Airman's Medal, and Coast Guard Medal.
- 3) **District Projects**- Even though we were in legislative session, district projects were central to the work of the office. Key district projects included
 - a. **Hueco Tanks Public Use Plan Review**
 - b. **Montana Vista Sewer Project**
 - c. **Natural Gas Infrastructure Expansion Project**
 - d. **Colonias Improvement Services**

- 4) **Leadership** – Representative González continued her leadership in the Mexican American Legislative Caucus (MALC) as the Treasurer, and was elected Secretary of the newly-formed Border Caucus. She was the point person on school finance, for MALC and the Border Caucus and organized multiple informational sessions for her colleagues, media and stakeholders throughout session http://www.elpasotimes.com/news/ci_28127576/bill-to-fix-school-funding-in-texas-abandoned .
- 5) **Awards** -In 2015, Representative Gonzalez was inducted into El Paso Women's Hall of Fame, being the youngest inductee of the year. She was also named the "Advocate of the Year" by Equality Texas, as well as named a "Champion of Equality" by the same organization. In July, the Center for American Progress will be honoring the Representative as one of the ten Millennial Change Makers in the country.
<http://www.equalitytexas.org/top-10-texas-house-members-on-lgbt-issues/>
- 6) **Inaugural Session for the ICUSP Education Fellow Program** – Representative González joined with the Institute for Community, University, and School Partnerships (ICUSP) in the inaugural session for the Education Fellow Program, which connected five graduate students from the University of Texas College of Education with the opportunity for hands-on experience in education policy as members of Rep. González' capitol staff.

7) **Selected Press Articles-**

Tornillo Natural Gas Project: http://www.elpasotimes.com/news/ci_27713366/getting-gas-service-tornillo-tough-challenge

House Bill 66 -English Language Learner legislation:

http://www.elpasotimes.com/news/ci_28013590/el-paso-state-rep-gonz%C3%A1lez-testing-bill-sails-through-house

House Bill 94 proactively addresses wage theft:

<http://www.constructioncitizen.com/blog/business-and-labor-join-forces-push-crack-down-wage-theft-texas/1503241>

House Bill 2879- East El Paso County Development Bill:

http://www.elpasotimes.com/news/ci_28048583/state-rep-wants-to-open-54k-acres-east-of-horizon-for-sale-development

Legislative Leadership: http://www.elpasotimes.com/news/ci_28135598/analysis-in-minority-junior-texas-house-democrats-hit-their-stride

House Bill 77 and Legislative Process:

http://www.elpasotimes.com/news/ci_27556739/rep-gonzalez-gets-first-bill-through-committee

Pastor Protection Bill: <http://www.star-telegram.com/news/article21603534.html>

In order to continue the work towards improving and strengthening House District 75, it is important to keep local leaders informed of the advances and projects of our office, so that we may continue to work collaboratively in these efforts. We encourage Community Stakeholders to reach out to any of our office staff should they have questions or need assistance.

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