

From the office of
Texas State Representative Dan Flynn

THE FLYNN REPORT

Legislative Newsletter

February 7, 2003

Greetings Constituents, Friends and Supporters

With committee assignments now confirmed the legislature begins the business of legislating. The last couple of weeks have given members the opportunity to attend seminars and review fact-finding procedures that will prepare the members to make votes that will benefit all Texans.

I am very pleased with my committee assignments believing they will enable me to best serve the constituents of House District 2. I will be serving as a member of Financial Institutions, County Affairs and General Investigation committees. We already have several bills that have been assigned to these committees and will begin hearings within the next few days.

The Capitol has been full with special interest groups as well as individuals from District 2. I was honored to have the privilege of inviting Rev. Mark Moore, pastor of Lakeside Baptist Church in Canton, to serve as Pastor of the Day. He opened the House with prayer and distinction, and I received compliments from many members praising his thoughts and prayers for our nation, Texas and its members. It was a meaningful moment for all in attendance. As is the case from time to time some take these positive moments to push their own agenda and such was the case. One member went to the press to complain about praying in Jesus Christ's name. I believe this was a ploy to divert attention away from the positive steps that are being made towards making our state government more responsive and efficient. However, none anticipate any censorship of prayers before the House and those that would want to make this a political issue will find the will of its members is to continue in the same path and heritage of asking from almighty God for wisdom and direction as we go about the process of governing. I would appreciate any support you would give to Rev. Moore for his leadership and Christ-like attitude.

Let me also advise that issues, specifically Robin Hood and Insurance Reforms, are on the fast track. This is the time for your input and comment. I have also contacted the Superintendents of all the school districts in House District 2 and trust they will provide their concerns and suggestions so I may pass their input to Chairman Gruesendorf before this bill goes to the House floor for a vote.

The Appropriations Committee begins the task of balancing the bi-annual budget with a potential serious shortfall of 9 billion dollars. It continues to be the will of the majority as we approach this assignment to reduce cost and become more efficient to meet the needs of Texans. Chairman Talmadge Heflin continues to believe there will be no need to increase taxes or make efforts to create a state income tax. The effort continues to be on the side of cutting and making government more accountable. Conservative coalitions and other groups continue to present

numerous cost saving ideas. These ideas come with excellent research and many are being considered. I wholeheartedly support these efforts.

Governor Perry, Lt. Governor Dewhurst and Speaker Craddick continue to stress that an administration with fiscal responsibility will create economic and educational opportunities working for the benefit of all Texans. They, along with other state officials, are leading the way by making cuts in their own budgets.

Despite the challenges that lay ahead I believe this to be an exciting time and opportunity to make Texas the best state to live, raise our families and enjoy the advantage of business opportunities. I appreciate your prayers and your confidence and see Texas' best days ahead of us. May God bless you and may God bless Texas.

My staff and I welcome your input and your questions. You can reach us in our office located in the Capitol extension: **E1.324**. Mailing address: **P. O. Box 2910, Austin, TX, 78768** and our phone number is **512/463-0880**. Email **dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us**.