

From the office of
Texas State Representative - Dan Flynn

THE FLYNN REPORT

Legislative Newsletter

February 28, 2003

Greetings Constituents, Supporters and Friends:

Momentum is gaining for serious measures to be taken to resolve the school finance problems currently facing Texas. Chairman Kent Grusendorf (R-Arlington) started public meetings on February 27 and March 6 to hear debate on House Bill 5 relating to school finance and other bills also important to the administration of public education. The House Committee on Public Education is moving to pass a short-term solution to the immediate problems in the current system. By laying the groundwork now I believe we can ensure success for the future rather than placing another band-aid as had been done in the past. These problems must be solved to insure generations to come of our commitment to sound solutions to provide our young people with the best education possible for years to come.

All of the Committee members are taking great care to look at the impact HB 5 will have on their constituencies and I can assure you that we will continue to take into serious consideration the recommendations of our school district officials. I was privileged to meet with a large number of school superintendents and administrators on Friday the 28th. Representatives from Hunt, Rains and Van Zandt counties were present. While we are not in 100% agreement on all issues we are all committed to doing what is best for our students in our district. Regardless of the opposition to changes we may face from some parties, I remain confident that the 78th Legislature will renovate the current school finance system before the next election cycle.

The House Appropriations Committee hearings have been going until the late hours of the night with heated exchanges constantly occurring. Many agencies realize the importance of identifying and eliminating waste, however far too many have not grasped the fundamental changes that government administrations must make immediately. These agencies seem unable or unwilling to understand that the constitutional requirement to balance the budget necessitates that each and every government program must be closely scrutinized. This legislature is and will be responsible to hold bureaucracies accountable holding their feet to the fire and a few may get burned in the process. It often takes temporary discomfort to save a generation the heartaches that we are incurring at this time. While the budget battles remain I am confident the House and Senate budget writing committees will prevail with their quest to trim state spending and present a balanced budget that will address all the accentual needs of the state.

I look forward to spending time and visiting with those that will be attending Hunt County Days at the state capitol Thursday & Friday March 6th and 7th.

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**.