

Dear Friend:

I write to share with you what we have done with your Senate office during the last ten years. I have enjoyed this job and am confident that the next ten years will be the “golden era” of El Paso.

Our city’s progress will be measured by the forthcoming expansion of Fort Bliss, increase of technology-related jobs in the future combat system, the Medical Center of the Americas, downtown revitalization and its related smart growth, and the Regional Mobility Authority. More than any time in our lifetime, El Paso is the best place to be.

For generations, politics has been “the highest calling” in my family. I see the Senate as the best job I have had. We have some hard work ahead to clear up corruption in our city and elect new leaders, but new opportunity and historic change is in the air.

We wanted to share some of our accomplishments, state and local, to let you know what your Senate office is doing for you:

STATE INITIATIVES

During the 81st Legislative session, we:

- Secured \$48 million for our new medical school. In addition, we secured \$17 million for a new clinical faculty.
- Secured continued funding for the most successful dropout prevention program in Texas. Under S.B. 1 (the state budget), \$41.9 million was appropriated for the Communities in Schools (CIS) program.
- Secured \$12.3 million in additional funding in S.B. 1 to increase monthly visitation by Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers. Working with the chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, Senator Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound), and the chair of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Steve Ogden (R-Bryan), I amended S.B. 69 to require that at least 95% of the children in the custody of the state are visited by a case worker each month. The 95% benchmark is based on federal guidelines. Although S.B. 69 ultimately did not pass, the funds for this specific purpose were appropriated in the final budget.
- Reformed the appraisal district appeal process. Working with Representative Bill Callegari (R-Katy), I amended H.B. 1030 to require Texas' largest counties—including El Paso—to provide for electronic protest of property tax appraisals.
- Improved public education funding formulas for El Paso ISD. Working with Representative Scott Hochberg (D-Houston), I amended H.B. 3646 to include a special funding allotment for students who are moving to Texas as a result of BRAC or whose families have been deployed in an active combat zone.

- Continued our efforts to increase financial literacy in El Paso and across Texas. Working with Representative Scott Hochberg (D-Houston), I amended H.B. 3646 to require regional Education Service Centers (ESCs) to train teachers on the financial literacy curriculum and offer individualized training and assistance on teaching personal financial literacy.
- Helped alleviate physician shortages throughout the Border region. I passed S.B. 202 to allow qualified, out-of-state doctors to begin seeing patients while waiting for their licensure applications to be processed. I also co-sponsored H.B. 2154, which will give doctors \$160,000 in loan repayment for practicing in medically underserved areas. Lastly, working with Representative Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston), I co-sponsored H.B. 3674 to allow specialty board certification to serve as proof of medical school equivalency, which will expedite the licensure process for foreign medical graduates. In addition, H.B. 3674 allows applicants who have been granted advanced standing by a recognized specialty board for graduate training that was performed overseas to count that training toward the required number of years in training.
- Created the El Paso County Ethics Commission, the first of its kind in Texas. S.B. 1368 will allow the county to establish an independent ethics commission that will adopt, publish and enforce an ethics code governing county public servants.
- Passed storm water fee exemption legislation. S.B. 1522 will exempt property owned by school districts, while S.B. 874 will exempt property owned by the county from fees.
- Enhanced Border security. Working with the chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security, Senator John Carona (R-Dallas), we amended H.B. 2086 to curb gang activity in Texas and stop violent transnational drug cartels. The bill will help transform the Department of Public Safety (DPS) by giving the agency new tools to identify, arrest and prosecute cartel leaders. I also co-authored S.B. 2225 to make it a third-degree felony for an individual to knowingly transport or transfer a firearm across the Texas-Mexico border.
- Stopped the spread of *colonias*. I sponsored H.B. 2833 to ensure that any new homes built in Texas counties will be held to the same high standards as those used in incorporated areas of the state.
- Protected orphan trusts from being moved outside of Texas. I passed S.B. 666 to create a system that will ensure that charitable foundations in Texas remain in the state by prohibiting a financial institution administering a charitable trust from changing the location if its administration to another state, unless otherwise authorized in the terms of a trust.

During past legislative sessions, we:

- Passed in the Texas Legislature authority for a four-year Medical School at Texas Tech's El Paso campus, and secured funding for a research building and a new classroom building for the first new medical school in the U.S. in thirty years.
- Secured \$48 million in funding to hire first and second-year faculty for the Texas Tech El Paso Medical School.
- Building on our efforts to promote financial literacy in El Paso and across the state,
- Co-sponsored H.B. 109, which covers as many as 127,000 more uninsured children through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). About 11,000 El Paso children have lost their CHIP coverage since budget cuts in 2003.
- Co-sponsored H.B. 14, the enabling legislation for H.J.R. 90, which will send a proposal to the voters to fund \$3 billion in bonds for cancer research.
- Worked on key provisions in H.B. 1, which includes \$706 million to settle *Frew v. Hawkins*, increasing reimbursement rates by 25 percent for doctors who see children on Medicaid, and increasing reimbursement rates by 50 percent. H.B. 1, also addresses U.S. Department of Justice findings at the Lubbock State School with \$49 million to meet staffing ratio requirements and to integrate 250 state school consumers into the HCS Program for the biennium. Finally, H.B. 1 appropriates an additional \$34.5 million in general revenue and \$65.4 in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to

increase staffing levels to lower caseloads, enhance training and provide additional technology for the Department of Family and Protective Services.

- Passed H.B. 1168, which regulates lodge homes for mentally ill, disabled and elderly Texans. The pilot program was previously established for registration, licensing and oversight of this category of residential homes. The legislation expands and makes the pilot program permanent and statewide.
- Supported key provisions in H.B. 1, increasing the State's contribution to the Teacher Retirement System from 6.0 percent to 6.58 percent (\$645 million) and authorizing an increase in teacher contributions, making possible a 13th check paid to retirees. H.B. 1 also appropriates \$285 million to provide all Texas teachers with a \$430 pay raise for each of the next two years, and \$100 million for a new scholarship program for Top 10% students.
- Passed H.B. 1609 to further improve our most successful dropout prevention program, Communities in Schools (CIS). H.B. 1609, targets dropout prevention by expanding the Student Success Initiative to the 8th grade and funding teacher academies to the tune of \$42.1 million for the biennium.
- Sponsored H.B. 2814, which creates a dual-language pilot program in no more than 30 campuses at 10 school districts across the state, to ensure our state leads the way in a multi-language world. Independent studies of dual language programs have shown that dual language is the best method in which to close the achievement gap between English learners and English speakers. Dual language programs also experience lower dropout rates than other bilingual education programs.
- Supported key provisions in the area of higher education under H.B. 1, including increased funding for UTEP by 17.82 percent with an appropriation of \$166 million; increased funding for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center by 33.74 percent with an appropriation of \$352 million; and, adding Cancer Research as a special item for Texas Tech University HSC (\$4.8 million).
- Passed S.B. 962 which helps build the fourteen new schools that troops and families will need. The bill reduces a school district's wealth per student by 25 percent for instructional facilities allotment (IFA) purposes if the district must construct, acquire, renovate, or improve an instructional facility as a result of incoming BRAC students. With a \$4.9 million budget allocation, S.B. 962 will help BRAC-impacted school districts secure the IFA funding necessary to properly serve the children of military personnel transferring due to BRAC.
- Passed S.B. 1912 which assists teachers moving into the community as a result of BRAC. Texas law provides for a one-year temporary teaching certificate for teachers to use while the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) determines what tests the teacher must take to be certified in Texas. The bill will extend the temporary certification period for one year past the date that SBEC informs the teacher of the required tests to

ensure that teachers in BRAC-impacted districts have an adequate time in which to comply with SBEC's testing requirements.

- Amended H.B. 3107 to recreate statutorily the Veterans' Assistance Fund. A contingency rider in H.B. 1 appropriated \$2 million into the Fund to help our state's veterans with costs associated with transportation to medical care, surgery and treatment.
- Co-authored S.B. 685 which exempts mandatory fees, in addition to tuition, for members of the Texas Military Forces attending institutions of higher education for up to 12 credit hours per semester through the Texas National Guard Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).
- Co-authored S.B. 1058 which requires the Adjutant General's Department to develop a referral program to provide referrals to service members for reintegration services. The bill also requires the Department of State Health Services and the Health and Human Services Commission to develop a directory of services and other resources, tools, and counseling programs available to aid veterans and their immediate families in the reintegration process.
- Filed S.B. 1588 and amended its provisions into S.B. 3 to ensure that counties adopt regulations for flood plain management that are not less stringent than those set forth by the National Flood Insurance Program, and provide for the imposition of penalties on landowners that are in violation of such measures.
- Passed S.B. 1762 which requires the Texas Water Development Board, in coordination with the Far West Texas Water Planning Group, to conduct a study on the impact of climate change on surface water. The bill also requires the board to submit a written report regarding its findings to the legislature.
- Strongly supported a key provision on H.B. 1 that increased our State parks funding, currently ranked 49th nationwide, by 75 percent, for a total \$171.7 million and appropriated \$47.7 million for state local parks grants. With this appropriation, it will be possible to invest \$500,000 in the creation of a visitor's center that will help engage and teach our community on the history and splendor that is the Franklin Mountain State Park. The city's master plan locates the center on the Northeast side of the Franklin Mountains.
- Filed S.B. 2027, and later amended S.B. 11 to authorize the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to initiate a pilot program similar to one enacted recently in Washington under which DPS would issue an enhanced driver's license for individuals who apply for one. The enhanced driver's license will look much like a conventional driver's license, but will also include proof of citizenship and other information that can easily be scanned at border ports-of-entry.
- Sponsored H.B. 1355 to increase the penalty to a state jail felony for an owner of a dangerous dog that is not secured properly (roaming loosely off their property) and makes an unprovoked attack that causes serious bodily injury. In the event that such an

attack causes the victim's death, the penalty is increased to a second degree felony.

- Authored and passed S.B. 652 that created \$250 million Texas Military Value Fund to be used by cities to enhance existing military bases by covering electricity, protecting training areas, and privatizing military highway projects.
- Authored S.B. 913 which created one-stop Border inspection stations to move commercial traffic across ports-of-entry faster and safer.
- Authored S.B. 396 to put laptops in all Texas schools.
- Authored the omnibus Adult Protective Services reform legislation, and co-authored S.B. 6, creating the Guardianship Certification Board, tightening procedures by providing more quality assurance of the state guardianship program, ensuring a more thorough review of cases by staff and special task units, and changing the emergency order process to provide a more immediate response.
- Authored S.B. 1479, the Texas Soldier's Payday Protection Act to prevent predatory lending abuses on Texas soldiers.
- Founded the Border Health Foundation.
- Authored S.B. 851 and sponsored H.B. 492, the Texas Financial Literacy Act to ensure that every Texas child learns basic financial skills such as how to balance a check book, use a credit card responsibly, and plan for buying a home.
- Co-authored S.B. 441 which created Border Job Creation Tax Credits for research and development.
- Co-authored and served on the conference committee for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) bill and spearheaded El Paso's initiative to enroll more than 40,000 children with health insurance.
- Authored S.B. 111 which guarantees that motivated high school students receive college credits for rigorous programs such as the International Baccalaureate Diploma program, the College Board's Advancement Placement Tests, College Level Exam Program tests, and dual credit courses.
- Worked with former Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, John Sharp, in creating the *Boarding on the Future* report. The report is the first ever performance review of Border challenges and solutions.
- Wrote and distributed the *Texas Borderlands - Frontier of the Future* report, a comprehensive analysis of border challenges, issues, and solutions.
- Wrote and distributed *Texas on the Brink* to document how Texas ranks among the 50

states in numerous policy areas to drive investment in strategic areas.

Local Initiatives

- Passed H.B. 4008 which adds two additional county criminal courts at law in El Paso, County Criminal Courts at Law No. 3 and No. 4.
- Amended S.B. 1951 to create the 448th District Court and the El Paso County Criminal District No.1 to focus on felony drug cases.
- Passed, S.B. 688 to assist the city with creating storm water districts, which manage and control storm water drainage.
- Worked closely with the Public Service Board (PSB), and the City of El Paso, to add approximately 1,850 acres of land to the Franklin Mountain State Park (1,600 acres in Northeast El Paso and 200 acres in West El Paso). With this expansion come new trailheads, allowing the El Paso community and the thousands of visitors from all over the country each year, better access to the park. This transfer of land and development of trailheads illustrates Senator Shapleigh's commitment to providing the best quality of life for El Pasoans, including the 21,000 troops and families coming to Fort Bliss over the next five years.
- Spearheaded El Paso's initiative and coordinated with the County of El Paso, Lt. Governor Dewhurst and General Land Office Commissioner Jerry Patterson to create a \$12.2 million, 160 bed State Veteran's Home for El Paso.
- Increased funding at the University of Texas at El Paso, especially formula funding in the Research and Excellence Fund.
- Passed legislation to refurbish and open the Wyler Aerial Tramway.
- Secured \$1.7 million to create the International Center for Intelligent Transportation, a Texas Transportation Institute Center in El Paso, and the first of its kind along the U.S.-Mexico Border.
- Created El Paso Pride program to improve the city's highways and neighborhoods.
- Wrote historic Sun Bowl legislation that creates a rental tax used to fund, in part, the annual game.
- Worked to create a new Business Incubator at UTEP.
- Worked with Boeing to bring 800 employees to El Paso.
- Founded Mission Valley Steering Committee to put more investment in Historic Mission Valley.

- Spearheaded the creation of the Sun Bowl International Youth Soccer Tournament.
- Organized the Far West Texas Climate Change Conference in conjunction with the Texas Water Development Board and the Region E Water Planning Group. This statewide conference provided a unique opportunity to hear from expert panelists in the areas of climate change, its impacts on Far West Texas, and potential water management strategies to address these impacts. In addition, conference attendees engaged in dynamic breakout sessions designed to promote dialogue and recommendations for the 81st legislative session.
- Worked with El Paso Independent School District (EPISD) and community leaders to create Equipo Bowie, a unique community engagement strategy to improve academic achievement throughout the Bowie High School feeder pattern through proven evidence-based early childhood education through twelfth grade initiatives. Equipo Bowie will seek to perform a comprehensive baseline analysis on the Bowie High School feeder pattern, identify best practices, and develop solutions to key, prioritized challenges, deliver resources where needed, and measure progress. This provides the El Paso community a unique opportunity to work with EPISD to implement systemic change throughout the Bowie High School feeder pattern.
- Collaborated with representatives from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), University of Texas at El Paso professors and graduate students, members of the Texas Master Naturalists, Trans-Pecos Chapter, and both instructors and students from Canutillo and Franklin high school to create the Franklin Mountains Flora website. This community generated website offers a variety of interactive applications which include; virtual tours on Google Earth, a database containing plant characteristics on each of the 250 most common and rare plant species found in the Franklin Mountains, and short videos of the different trails in the Franklin Mountain State Park. This website is part of the larger "No Child Left Inside Initiative," and will serve as the paradigm for future flora and fauna oriented websites in Texas.
- Organized the Invest In The American Dream Conference which brought together public and private sector stakeholders from across the nation to discuss, identify and celebrate innovative solutions to facilitating full economic community-wide participation in the American dream. Creative ideas with focus on engaging the Hispanic community, initiated a 5-year community-driven initiative centered on creating wealth and financial stability, developing financial literacy, facilitating access to capital, and replicating financial best practices.
- Initiated the Texas National Guard - Letters from Home Project which is a letter writing campaign that gives area school children the opportunity to express their gratitude to our troops serving throughout the state. Elementary school students from Canutillo, Socorro, Ysleta, Clint and El Paso school districts participate in the pen pal project.

- Organized *¡Ganas!* which is an international art and essay contest designed to promote youth empowerment. On Cinco de Mayo of each year, student entries from El Paso will join students from Secundarias De Juarez in a bi-national exposition of student photos and essays. *¡Ganas!* is an international collaboration between our Senate Office, Municipio de Juarez, El Paso Independent School District, Ysleta Independent School District, Canutillo Independent School District, Socorro Independent School District, the International Museum of Art and the City of El Paso. Students will be asked to join the contest by taking photos of people, culture or places that have positive influence on their values, families and community, then with teacher mentoring to write a 100 word essay on what the photo means to them.
- Wrote and distributed the *Five M's* publication to identify El Paso's economic development opportunities.
- Wrote and distributed the *Asarco in El Paso* publication to provide the definitive history of the operation of Asarco in El Paso with respect to their recent request for the renewal of an air permit which will put 7,000 tons of new pollutants into our air.

National Initiatives

- Organized the BLC Economic Development Committee and launched Secure, Fast, Smart Border 2020.
- Organized *the Americas 2020 Summit*, bringing together government and private sector stakeholders from the United States, Mexico and Canada to discuss the challenges and opportunities to improve North American security and economic competitiveness in the 21st Century. Expert panelists provided dynamic, enlightening presentations on the topics of intelligent border crossings, North America infrastructure competitiveness, and secure trade manufacturing. Simultaneous breakout session resulted in concrete recommendations for specific state and federal legislative proposals.

Awards and Honors

In addition, you may not be aware that I have been honored with these key awards:

National

- *2006 Distinguished Service Award* (National Sierra Club)
- *Visionary Technology Innovator Award for 2003* (Center for Digital Government)
- *National Legislator of the Year* (American School Health Association)
- *National Top 25 Doers, Dreamers and Drivers of Information Technology*

(Government Technology Magazine)

State

- ***National Association of Social Workers Texas Public Elected Official of the Year 2009*** (National Association of Social Workers, Texas Chapter)
- ***Matt Garcia Public Service Award 2007*** (MALDEF)
- ***Friend of Education Award 2007*** (Texas Council for the Social Studies)
- ***Texas Technology Champion 2007*** (American Electronics Association)
- ***Freedom To Teach Award 2006*** (Association of Texas Professionals)
- ***Advocate Award 2006*** (Texas Council on Adult Literacy)
- ***Texas Education Leadership Award for 2005*** (Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce)
- ***Freedom to Teach Award 2005*** (Association of Texas Professionals)
- ***Visionary Award 2005*** (Texas Guardianship Association)
- ***Public Interest Champion 2005*** (TexPIRG)
- ***Texas Legislator of the Year for 2005*** (Texas International Baccalaureate Schools)
- ***Texas Legislator of the Year*** (Mexican American Bar Association)
- ***Texas Legislator of the Year*** (Hispanic Journal)
- ***Texas Legislator of the Year*** (Texas AARP)
- ***Texas Legislator of the Year*** (Texas Pharmacy Association)
- ***Texas Legislator of the Year*** (Texas Sierra Club)
- ***Texas Legislative Champion for School Children*** (Texas Equity Center)
- ***Texas Classroom Advocate of the Year*** (Classroom Teachers Association)
- ***Texas Advocate for Children Award*** (Child Crisis Centers of Texas)

- *Texas Advocacy Award* (American Cancer Society)
- *Conscience of the Senate* (Texas Monthly)
- *Legislative Excellence Award* (Texas Independent Living Council)
- *Champion of Choice Award* (NARAL)

Local

- *Mental Health Hero Award 2008* (El Paso Mental Health & Mental Retardation)
- *Public Official of the Year 2008* (National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Texas Chapter, El Paso Branch)
- *Legislator of the Year 2006* (El Paso Municipal Police Association)
- *Community Service Award 2006* (Ray Pearson Group)
- *2004 “Best of the Border” Public Servant of the Year Award* (What’s Up Magazine)
- *Humanitarian of the Year 2004* (The Black El Paso Democrats)
- **BIZTECH Hall of Fame Inductee 2003** (El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce)
In 2003, Senator Shapleigh was inducted into the BIZTECH Hall of Fame for his work in bringing technology to classrooms, low income neighborhoods and cross border trade. BIZTECH is the Technology/Business Group founded by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.
- *El Paso Conquistador Award* (El Paso City Council)
- *El Pasoan of the Year* (El Paso Inc., for work on El Paso Medical School)
- *Hannah G. Solomon Award* (National Council of Jewish Women - El Paso Section)
- *Advocacy Award* (El Paso Lighthouse for the Blind)
- *City of Socorro ~District 3 Community Service Award* (City of Socorro)

I am very humbled to serve El Paso. Our office has worked harder, passed more legislation and spearheaded more key initiatives than any other person to hold the office. We are proud of that record. While we have challenges, especially in reforming government and business procurement practices, I am confident about our future.

Our major state related issues will always be great schools, a first-class university, our medical campus, a quality healthcare system, water, safety and basic infrastructure demands.

With Texas as a strong partner in our foundation of success, with vibrant and progressive leaders now at City Council, we can truly make this ten years the “golden era” of El Paso’s history. I look forward to working together with you for our future, given all that we have done together.

Very truly yours,

Eliot Shapleigh

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