



Dear Friend,

Below is a brief list of bills I passed or helped pass during the 2011 legislative session. While I carried most of these bills, some of them I helped pass as a co-author or co-sponsor. This list does not include all of the legislation I carried, only those bills ultimately passed into law. I passed a few bills as amendments on other bills, the most important one to me being doubling the penalty for drunk driving if the offender is more than twice the legal limit.

I have divided the bills by subject matter and begin with major legislation passed this session. As you can see from this list I work on a broad array of issues, but always focus on your priorities: **limited government spending, quality public education, low taxes, pro-life and family values**. To learn more about each bill, click on the bill number. The link will open a new page within the Texas Legislative Information System website.

Please feel free to contact my office about any of these bills or for further information.

May God bless,

Major Legislation

[HB 15](#) **Sponsor: Dan Patrick**

This is the sonogram bill that I finally passed after five years of trying. The right of a woman to have all the information available to her before an abortion is guaranteed by this bill. Rep. Miller carried the bill in the House of Representatives this session.

[SB 14](#) **Author: Fraser, Co-author Patrick, et al.**

This is the long awaited voter identification bill. I was proud to be a coauthor with Senator Fraser. Requiring voters to show some form of photo identification is a widely adopted policy that Texas should have adopted a long time ago. Thanks to Rep. Harless who sponsored this bill in the House.

[SB 18](#) **Author: Estes, Co-author Patrick, et al.**

I co-authored this bill with Senator Estes. This legislation will provide greater protections for home and landowners from eminent domain abuse.

[SB 516](#) **Author: Dan Patrick**

This was the top priority of veteran's groups as it protects military spouses from tax hikes upon the death of their disabled veteran spouse. I carried this bill with Representative Allen Fletcher.

Education Legislation

[SB 391](#) **Author: Dan Patrick**

This bill will help lower the overall cost of textbooks by requiring that sample copies of textbooks be sent to school districts in an electronic format only.

[SB 975](#) **Author: Hinojosa, Co-author Patrick, et al.**

This bill builds on a successful dropout recovery program in south Texas, enabling school districts to partner with community colleges in helping dropouts complete their high school diploma and prepare for an associate's degree.

[SB 1383](#) **Author: Shapiro, Co-author Patrick, et al.**

This bill will create an appraisal and professional development system for public school principals to promote the highest quality leadership in our schools.

[SB 1788](#) **Author: Dan Patrick**

This bill will create a standardized education form for special education students, to help lower costs for school districts and create a simpler form for parents to understand.

[HB 2911](#) **Sponsor: Dan Patrick**

This bill enables existing higher education authorities to provide alternative low-cost loans for higher education to students. The cost of higher education is an issue that demands serious attention.

Criminal Justice Legislation

[SB 244](#) **Author: Dan Patrick**

I authored this bill for law enforcement in order to make their training requirements more efficient.

[SB 844](#) **Author: Dan Patrick**

This bill closes a loophole in the law by increasing the penalty for the offense of escape from lawful detention.

[HB 25](#) **Sponsor: Dan Patrick**

This is one of several bills I carried that expands the right to concealed handguns.

[HB 3396](#) **Sponsor: Dan Patrick**

I carried this bill in the Senate to increase penalties for computer hacking and identity theft.

Finance Legislation

[SB 1546](#) **Author: Dan Patrick**

I passed this bill with Rep. Jim Murphy. This bill allows individuals to get a second hearing before an appraisal review board following a failure to attend for good cause.

[HB 645](#) **Sponsor: Dan Patrick**

I sponsored this bill for Rep. Mark Shelton. It protects individuals from disclosing personal information, such as social security numbers, when requesting a property tax exemption for their charitable organization.

[HB 896](#) **Sponsor: Dan Patrick**

I sponsored this bill for Rep. Charlie Howard that ensures appraisal review board members are impartial mediators in appraisal protest hearings.

Health and Human Services Legislation

[HB 1720](#) **Sponsor: Dan Patrick, et al.**

I sponsored this bill for Rep. John Davis that makes current Medicaid policy more efficient in investigating and preventing Medicaid fraud, as well as promptly initiating payment recovery when fraud is discovered.

[SB 257](#) **Author: Carona, Co-author Dan Patrick**

This bill creates the "Choose Life" specialty license plate, proceeds of which go toward a fund that aides pregnant women and families seeking adoption services.

[SB 847](#) **Author: Dan Patrick**

This bill makes healthcare more efficient by allowing the Harris County Hospital District to provide administrative support to certain providers.

Immigration/Border Legislation

[SB 24](#) **Author: Van de Putte, Co-author Dan Patrick**

I coauthored this legislation which, based on studies by the Attorney General's Office, toughens laws against human trafficking.

[SB 1416](#) **Author: Hinojosa, Co-author Dan Patrick**

I coauthored this bill that cracks down on certain human and drug trafficking practices taking place along the border.

[HB 260](#) **Sponsor: Dan Patrick, et al.**

There were very few successes in the area of immigration bills this session. I was proud to sponsor this bill by Rep. Harvey Hilderbran that increases the criminal penalties on human smugglers.

Senate District 7 Legislation

[SB 1200](#) **Author: Dan Patrick** **Sponsor: Fletcher, et al.**

This bill will help Justice of the Peace courts equalize their caseloads and operate more efficiently.

[SB 1545](#) **Author: Dan Patrick, et al.** **Sponsor: Woolley**

I worked with Rep. Beverly Wooley to pass this bill and protect volunteer health care providers who conduct medical screenings for student athletes from liability.

[SB 1789](#) **Author: Dan Patrick** **Sponsor: Bohac**

I passed this bill in order to protect homeowners from being negatively affected by the redevelopment of golf course properties.

[HB 2779](#) **Author: Bohac, et al.** **Sponsor: Dan Patrick**

I passed this bill with Rep. Dwayne Bohac in order to protect homeowners from property owner associations that prohibit the display of patriotic flags.

You have received this email because of past email communications with Senator Patrick. You are welcome to forward this email to your friends.

Go to www.patrick.senate.state.tx.us and get the most current information about how Senator Patrick is representing you in the Texas Senate.

Please feel free to contact my office:

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