



THE TORCH

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Summing Up the 85th Legislative Session

By **Trayce Bradford**, Texas Eagle Forum President

As this was my first legislative session as your Texas Eagle Forum leader, I appreciate your patience and gracious spirit as we deliver our scorecard and inside look at the 85th legislative session. We had a lot of struggles defending Texas families, yet saw victories with the passing of several of our “priority bills.” TEF is proud of our accomplishments this year in Austin.

The session was a successful one for Texans with Governor Greg Abbott signing legislation

banning sanctuary cities, enforcing American Law for American Courts (ALAC), and protecting the privacy of sexual assault victims, stalking victims, and trafficking victims. Other victories include protection of pastors’ sermons from governmental intrusion, conscience rights for pharmacists, Child Protective Services (CPS) reform, establishment of a statewide electronic system for sex offenders, patient protection on DNR orders, abortion clinics mandatory reporting of abortion complications, and pro-life health

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Texas Eagle Forum
gives thanks to
God for the
blessings of family,
friends and freedom.

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2017 Senate Scorecard

SENATOR	Conservative Rating	SENATOR	Conservative Rating
Bettencourt, Paul (R)	95%	Birdwell, Brian (R)	95%
Buckingham, Dawn (R)	95%	Burton, Konni (R)	95%
Campbell, Donna (R)	97%	Creighton, Brandon (R)	95%
Estes, Craig (R)	95%	Garcia, Sylvia (D)	45%
Hall, Bob (R)	95%	Hancock, Kelly (R)	95%
Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy" (D)	59%	Huffines, Don (R)	95%
Huffman, Joan (R)	95%	Hughes, Bryan (R)	95%
Kolkhorst, Lois (R)	97%	Lucio, Jr., Eddie (D)	79%
Menendez, Jose (D)	49%	Miles, Boris (D)	50%
Nelson, Jane (R)	95%	Nichols, Robert (R)	95%
Perry, Charles (R)	95%	Rodriguez, Jose (D)	48%
Schwertner, Charles (R)	95%	Seliger, Kel (R)	88%
Taylor, Larry (R)	95%	Taylor, Van (R)	98%
Uresti, Carlos (D)	56%	Watson, Kirk (D)	50%
West, Royce (D)	52%	Whitmire, John (D)	52%
Zaffirini, Judith (D)	59%		

2017 House Scorecard

REPRESENTATIVE	Conservative Rating	REPRESENTATIVE	Conservative Rating
Allen, Alma (D)	36%	Alonzo, Roberto (D)	40%
Alvarado, Carol (D)	39%	Anchia, Rafael (D)	35%
Anderson, Charles "Doc" (R)	86%	Anderson, Rodney (R)	83%
Arevalo, Diana (D)	34%	Ashby, Trent (R)	79%
Bailes, Ernest (R)	79%	Bell, Jr., Cecil (R)	95%
Bernal, Diego (D)	36%	Biedermann, Kyle (R)	90%
Blanco, Caesar (D)	38%	Bohac, Dwayne (R)	90%
Bonnen, Dennis (R)	95%	Bonnen, Greg (R)	87%
Burkett, Cindy (R)	84%	Burns, DeWayne (R)	86%
Burrows, Dustin (R)	93%	Button, Angie (R)	84%
Cain, Briscoe (R)	93%	Canales, Terry (D)	39%
Capriglione, Giovanni (R)	89%	Clardy, Travis (R)	70%
Coleman, Garnet (D)	41%	Collier, Nicole (D)	36%
Cook, Bryon (R)	79%	Cortez, Philip (D)	43%
Cosper, Scott, (R)	84%	Craddick, Tom (R)	89%
Cryier, John (R)	86%	Dale, Tony (R)	89%
Darby, Drew (R)	78%	Davis, Sarah (R)	58%
Davis, Yvonne (D)	32%	Dean, Jay (R)	86%
Deshotel, Joe (D)	43%	Dukes, Dawnna (D)	14%
Dutton, Harold (D)	46%	Elkins, Gary (R)	88%
Faircloth, Wayne (R)	89%	Fallon, Pat (R)	95%
Farrar, Jessica (D)	41%	Flynn, Dan (R)	84%
Frank, James (R)	90%	Frullo, John (R)	90%
Geren, Charlie (R)	77%	Gervin-Hawkins, Barbara (D)	46%
Giddings, Helen (D)	44%	Goldman, Craig (R)	90%
Gonzales, Larry (R)	79%	Gonzalez, Mary (D)	35%

2017 House Scorecard cont'd

REPRESENTATIVE	Conservative Rating	REPRESENTATIVE	Conservative Rating
Gooden, Larry (R)	79%	Guerra, Bobby (D)	45%
Guillen, Ryan (D)	52%	Gutierrez, Roland (D)	39%
Hefner, Cole, (R)	95%	Hernandez, Ana (D)	37%
Herrero, Abel (D)	46%	Hinojosa, Gina (D)	33%
Holland, Justin (R)	89%	Howard, Donna (D)	34%
Huberty, Dan (R)	86%	Hunter, Todd (R)	84%
Isaac, Jason (R)	90%	Israel, Celia (D)	32%
Johnson, Eric (D)	39%	Johnson, Jarvis (D)	40%
Kacal, Kyle (R)	82%	Keough, Mark (R)	89%
King, Ken (R)	74%	King, Phil (R)	88%
King, Tracy (D)	52%	Klick, Stephanie (R)	89%
Koop, Linda (R)	79%	Krause, Matt (R)	91%
Keumpel, John (R)	85%	Lambert, John (R)	75%
Landgraf, Brooks (R)	89%	Lang, Mike (R)	93%
Larson, Lyle (R)	79%	Laubenberg, Jodie (R)	87%
Leach, Jeff (R)	93%	Longoria, Oscar (D)	53%
Lozano, J.M. (D)	79%	Lucio, Eddie (D)	41%
Martinez, Mando (D)	41%	Metcalf, Will (R)	93%
Meyer, Morgan (R)	86%	Miller, Rick (R)	90%
Minjarez, Ina (D)	32%	Moody, Joe (D)	42%
Morrison, Geanie (R)	82%	Munoz, Sergio (D)	43%
Murphy, Jim (R)	86%	Murr, Andrew (R)	84%
Neave, Victoria (D)	43%	Nevarez, Poncho (D)	45%
Oliveira, Renee (D)	39%	Oliverson, Tom (R)	88%
Ortega, Lina (D)	39%	Paddie, Chris (R)	86%
Parker, Tan (R)	89%	Paul, Dennis (R)	91%
Perez, Mary Ann (D)	36%	Phelan, Dale (R)	82%
Phillips, Larry (R)	81%	Pickett, Joe (D)	61%
Price, Four (R)	82%	Raney, John (R)	74%
Raymond, Richard (D)	50%	Reynolds, Ron (D)	34%
Rinaldi, Matt (R)	95%	Roberts, Kevin (R)	89%
Rodriguez, Eddie (D)	40%	Rodriguez, Justin (D)	37%
Romero, Ramon (D)	41%	Rose, Toni (D)	36%
Sanford, Scott (R)	89%	Schaefer, Matt (R)	95%
Schofield, Mike (R)	89%	Schubert, Leighton (R)	89%
Shaheen, Matt (R)	95%	Sheffield, J.D. (R)	77%
Shine, Hugh (R)	81%	Simmons, Ron (R)	91%
Smithee, John (R)	84%	Springer, Drew (R)	93%
Stephenson, Phil (R)	84%	Stickland, Jonathan (R)	91%
Straus, Joe (R)	NA	Stucky, Lynn (R)	86%
Swanson, Valoree (R)	95%	Thierry, Shawn (D)	43%
Thompson, Ed (R)	91%	Thompson, Senfronia (D)	44%
Tinderholt, Tony (R)	93%	Turner, Chris (D)	36%
Uresti, Tomas (D)	45%	VanDeaver, Gary (R)	82%
Villalba, Jason (R)	77%	Vo, Hubert (D)	39%
Walle, Armando (D)	40%	White, James (R)	86%
Wilson, Terry (R)	84%	Workman, Paul (R)	84%
Wray, John (R)	86%	Wu, Gene (D)	35%
Zedler, William (R)	93%	Zerwas, John (R)	79%



Trayce speaking in support of the “Bathroom Bill” at the Faith & Family Rally in Austin.

insurance reform, which would ban abortion coverage in private insurance plans, as well as plans offered to state employees and participants in the Affordable Care Act.

HB 89, a bill prohibiting state agencies from contracting with companies boycotting Israel, also was signed into law by Gov. Abbott. This bill earned a grateful response from Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu: *“I thank the Texas legislature for passing laws to strengthen the relationship between Texas and Israel, and I look forward to further fortifying our alliance moving forward.”*

*“I fight for liberty,
because so few do.”*

- SEN. KONNI BURTON

While bills we deemed “priority bills” passed quickly in the Senate, many were stalled in the House due to the leadership of Speaker Joe Straus and his Chairman of the State Affairs Committee, Byron Cook. TEF, along with other conservative organizations, fought hard for the Women’s Privacy Act (i.e. Bathroom Bill), a dismemberment abortion ban, disposal of fetal tissue and fetus remains, and property tax reform. In the case of the Bathroom Bill, protecting women and girls from sexual predators in public bathrooms lost to Big Business afraid of offending the LGBT community and their supporters, who threatened boycotts. When did it become hateful and bigoted for a woman to not want to use a public restroom with males? Where is the common sense of our legislators and citizens?

Another bill that failed was SB 83, securing our Texas Grid. As you may know, we are the only state in the union with our own electric grid. Four years ago at a Dallas Eagle Forum presentation, then Senator-elect Bob Hall said during his

military career he had been responsible for the EMP project. Since that time, he has worked relentlessly to make the public aware of the dangers of failing to secure our Texas grid from cyber-attacks, terrorism, and nature. All eyes were on Texas during this session to see what we would do to protect our grid. Unfortunately, the bill ended up dying in the House State Affairs Committee. TEF will not give up on this critical issue, and we know Senator Bob Hall will be right there with us!

The session saw political games and personal attacks on the conservative members of the House, many of whom belong to the Texas Freedom Caucus, led by the leadership of moderate Republicans and pro-abortion Democrats of the House. TEF commends the Texas Freedom Caucus for their righteous stance and courage on many pro-life and conservative issues. Thankfully, both Joe Straus and Byron Cook recently announced they would not seek re-election. TEF will work for and support a conservative, pro-life Speaker for the 2019 Session, and our dear friend, Thomas McNutt, the conservative candidate, to replace Rep. Cook.

We took a different approach on the 2017 scorecard—you won’t see a dramatic variance in scores, although it will be easy to find “the good guys.” This time, we decided to include some unanimous votes, since we have supported and worked on these bills for several sessions, some for even years. Plus, legislators wanted to be on record for voting on issues such as human trafficking, banning female genital mutilation, stiffer penalties for school districts failing to state on a teacher’s record that he/she had an improper relationship with a student (i.e. “Passing the Trash”), and public access to financial information.

Thank you for your prayers, calls, emails, and personal visits with legislators throughout the sessions. We are honored to serve you and your family through Texas Eagle Forum.

Our entire scorecard can be viewed on our website: www.texaseagle.org. There you will find descriptions of the votes and how your senator or representative voted on a number of issues. Please check it out and hold your representatives accountable as we go into the 2018 mid-term election season.