

TEXAS EAGLE FORUM TORCH

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Gov. Abbott signs Pro-Life Judicial Bypass Reform (HB 3994) on July 7

The 84th Legislative Session: MIA on TEF's Priorities

By Cathie Adams, TEF President

The 84th Texas Legislative Session that concluded June 1st can best be described as "Missing In Action" on TEF's priorities: Marriage, Immigration and American Laws for American Courts (ALAC).

MARRIAGE: House Bill 4105 by Rep. Cecil Bell (R-Magnolia) would have set Texas apart

from the rest of the nation in the sorry, yet expected, U.S. Supreme Court decision granting equality to heterosexual and homosexual "marriage." Our transformed America has done something never before done by great empires in the history of the world by granting equality to sexual perversion and God's design for marriage.

Continued on Page 2



In This Issue

The 84th Legislative Session: MIA on TEF's Priorities 1

2015 Senate Scorecard 3

2015 House Scorecard 3-4

Progress Through Preservation of Traditional Values

The 84th Legislative Session: MIA on TEF's Priorities

Continued from Page 1



Senator Bob Hall with TEF National Security Director Trayce Bradford and TEF President Cathie Adams

HB 4105 was two-pronged. It would have denied funding to any county or municipality that issued same-sex “marriage” licenses. Secondly, it would have centralized marriage licensing under the authority of a statewide elected official, so that he/she could be held accountable to the voters. The bill died in the House Calendars Committee, an abysmal failure of Speaker Joe Straus (R-San Antonio) and his lieutenants. Neither Gov. Abbott nor Lt. Gov. Patrick made this bill a priority, probably due to the Texas Association of Business’ April 7 press conference in Austin opposing a religious liberty amendment to the Texas Constitution.

IMMIGRATION: The Senate passed Senate Bill 1252, by Senator Bob Hall (R-Austin), on May 7. It would have given Texas the authority to enforce federal immigration laws, since the federal government is either unwilling or unable to do so. Speaker Straus again showed his disdain for the will of the majority of Texans by delaying referral of SB 1252 to a House committee until May 12. Even worse, he sent it to his faithful lieutenant Rep. Byron Cook (R-Corsicana), Chairman of the State Affairs Committee, rather than to the Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee, where it died.

ALAC: Senate Bill 531, by Senator Donna Campbell (R-San Antonio), passed the Senate on May 22, which was too late for serious consideration by the House. It was given an easy death in the House Calendars Committee. Two of the bill “co-sponsors,” Reps. Patricia Harless (R-Spring) and

Debbie Riddle (R-Spring), even voted against sending the bill out of the Calendars Committee.

The Texas Senate is definitely more conservative under the leadership of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and eight newly elected Senators. Changing the “Rosebush Blocker Rule” that allowed bills to be brought to the floor with 60 percent of the Senators’ approval, rather than the old 2/3s rule, served the people of Texas well.

The Texas House labored under the weak leadership of Speaker Joe Straus. The first vote cast by House members was for Speaker, so they have no one to blame but themselves for returning Straus to the job. Only 19 Representatives voted for stellar conservative Rep. Scott Turner (R-Rockwall) for Speaker.

Our entire scorecard can be viewed on our website: www.texaseagle.org. There you will find descriptions of the votes and how your senator and representative voted on a number of issues.

Texas Eagle Forum is grateful for the highly qualified and greatly talented volunteers who fought tirelessly to defend our families during the session.

TEF VP and Education Liaison, **MerryLynn Gerstenschlager** (capitoldays140@hotmail.com), stayed in Austin throughout the 140-day session. She filed affidavits and testified on a myriad of bills on our behalf. Whether it concerned the definition of marriage or our children’s education or our Second Amendment rights, MerryLynn was always there for us. She has earned well-deserved accolades about how well she represented TEF with accuracy and grace.

Former TEF President, **Pat Carlson** (pat-carlson@sbcglobal.net), did an outstanding job defending our U.S. Constitution against the notion that the Congress would give way to state legislators to control an Article V convention. The worst case scenario is that an Article V convention would subject our U.S. Constitution to a total rewrite by less honorable men and women than were our Founders. What is needed instead of a convention is the courage necessary to hold elected officials accountable to our Founders’ high standards in our current U.S. Constitution.

TEF’s National Security Director, **Trayce Bradford** (trayce3@me.com), led our efforts to pass an American Laws for American Courts bill. Despite Trayce’s best efforts, excellent bill authors, and the best arguments on our side, we must try again in 2017 to finally pass ALAC.

MerryLynn, Pat, Trayce and I thank you for your prayers, calls, emails, and personal visits with legislators throughout the session.

Texas Eagle Forum will continue to fight for you and your precious family. Our leaders are motivated by our Savior. We are unashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We pray as we take each step serving Him. We will never, never, never, never give up!

2015 Senate Scorecard

SENATOR	Conservative Rating	SENATOR	Conservative Rating
Bettencourt, Paul (R)	75%-C	Birdwell, Brian (R)	79%-C
Burton, Konni (R)	95%-A	Campbell, Donna (R)	75%-C
Creighton, Brandon (R)	87%-B	Ellis, Rodney (D)	15%-F
Eltife, Kevin (R)	67%-D	Estes, Craig (R)	68%-D
Fraser, Tony (R)	84%-B	Garcia, Sylvia (D)	19%-F
Hall, Bob (R)	91%-A	Hancock, Kelly (R)	78%-C
Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy" (D)	25%-F	Huffines, Don (R)	91%-A
Huffman, Joan (R)	68%-D	Kolkhorst, Lois (R)	89%-B
Lucio, Eddie (D)	36%-F	Menendez, Jose (D)	19%-F
Nelson, Jane (R)	84%-B	Nichols, Robert (R)	67%-D
Perry, Charles (R)	79%-C	Rodriguez, Jose, (D)	8%-F
Schwertner, Charles (R)	73%-C	Seliger, Kel (R)	70%-C
Taylor, Larry (R)	73%-C	Taylor, Van (R)	94%-A
Uresti, Carlos (D)	25%-F	Watson, Kirk (D)	10%-F
West, Royce (D)	25%-F	Whitmire, John (D)	13%-F
Zaffirini, Judith (D)	11%-F		

2015 House Scorecard

REPRESENTATIVE	Conservative Rating	REPRESENTATIVE	Conservative Rating
Allen, Alma (D)	7%-F	Alonzo, Roberto (D)	7%-F
Alvardo, Carol (D)	5%-F	Anchia, Rafael (D)	7%-F
Anderson, Charles "Doc" (R)	60%-D	Anderson, Rodney (R)	86%-B
Ashby, Trent (R)	55%-F	Aycock, Jimmie Don (R)	55%-F
Bell, Cecil (R)	74%-C	Bernal, Diego (D)	5%-F
Blanco, Cesar (D)	2%-F	Bohac, Dwayne (R)	75%-C
Bonnen, Dennis (R)	77%-C	Bonnen, Greg (R)	74%-C
Burkett, Cindy (R)	53%-F	Burns, DeWayne (R)	72%-C
Burrows, Dustin (R)	91%-A	Button, Angie Chen (R)	64%-D
Canales, Terry (D)	9%-F	Capriglione, Giovanni (R)	76%-C
Clardy, Travis (R)	52%-F	Coleman, Garnet (D)	3%-F
Collier, Nicole (D)	5%-F	Cook, Bryon (R)	47%-F
Craddick, Tom (R)	74%-C	Crownover, Myra (R)	55%-F
Cyrier, John (R)	80%-B	Dale, Tony (R)	71%-C
Darby, Drew (R)	52%-F	Davis, Sarah (R)	26%-F
Davis, Yvonne (D)	5%-F	Deshotel, Joe (D)	10%-F
Dukes, Dawnna (D)	0%-F	Dutton, Harold (D)	16%-F
Elkins, Gary (R)	71%-C	Faircloth, Wayne (R)	60%-D
Fallon, Pat (R)	91%-A	Farias, Joe (D)	10%-F
Farney, Marsha (R)	54%-F	Farrar, Jessica (D)	5%-F
Fletcher, Allen (R)	69%-D	Flynn, Dan (R)	81%-B
Frank, James (R)	78%-C	Frullo, John (R)	54%-F
Galindo, Rick (R)	45%-F	Geren, Charlie (R)	61%-D
Giddings, Helen (D)	2%-F	Goldman, Craig (R)	78%-C

2015 House Scorecard

Continued from Page 3

REPRESENTATIVE	Conservative Rating	REPRESENTATIVE	Conservative Rating
Gonzales, Larry (R)	49%-F	Gonzalez, Mary (D)	3%-F
Guerra, R.D. "Bobby" (D)	10%-F	Guillen, Ryan (D)	35%-F
Gutierrez, Roland (D)	12%-F	Harless, Patricia (R)	60%-D
Hernandez, Ana (D)	5%-F	Herrero, Abel (D)	15%-F
Howard, Donna (D)	5%-F	Huberty, Dan (R)	55%-F
Hughes, Bryan (R)	88%-B	Hunter, Todd (R)	60%-D
Isaac, Jason (R)	68%-D	Israel, Celia (D)	3%-F
Johnson, Eric (D)	9%-F	Kacal, Kyle (R)	53%-F
Keffer, Jim (R)	50%-F	Keough, Mark (R)	79%-C
King, Ken (R)	49%-F	King, Phil (R)	73%-C
King, Susan (R)	60%-D	King, Tracy (D)	16%-F
Klick, Stephanie (R)	88%-B	Koop, Linda (R)	55%-F
Krause, Matt (R)	97%-A	Kuempel, John (R)	56%-F
Landgraf, Brooks (R)	78%-C	Larson, Lyle (R)	54%-F
Laubenberg, Jodie (R)	79%-C	Leach, Jeff (R)	93%-A
Longoria, Oscar (D)	9%-F	Lozano, J.M. (R)	45%-F
Lucio, Eddie (D)	10%-F	Marquez, Marisa (D)	2%-F
Martinez, Armando "Mando" (D)	7%-F	Martinez Fischer, Trey (D)	10%-F
McClendon, Ruth (D)	4%-F	Metcalf, Will (R)	74%-C
Meyer, Morgan (R)	60%-D	Miles, Borris (D)	5%-F
Miller, Doug (R)	52%-F	Miller, Rick (R)	60%-D
Minjarez, Ina (D)	5%-F	Moody, Joe (D)	10%-F
Morrison, Geanie (R)	60%-D	Munoz, Sergio (D)	6%-F
Murphy, Jim (R)	57%-F	Murr, Andrew (R)	78%-C
Naishtat, Elliott (D)	4%-F	Nevarez, Alfonso "Poncho" (D)	9%-F
Oliveira, Rene (D)	9%-F	Otto, John (R)	54%-F
Paddie, Chris (R)	55%-F	Parker, Tan (R)	66%-D
Paul, Dennis (R)	85%-B	Pena, Gilbert (R)	49%-F
Phelan, Dade (R)	71%-C	Phillips, Larry (R)	67%-D
Pickett, Joe (D)	23%-F	Price, Four (R)	54%-F
Raney, John (R)	43%-F	Raymond, Richard (D)	9%-F
Reynolds, Ron (D)	6%-F	Riddle, Debbie (R)	65%-D
Rinaldi, Matt (R)	98%-A	Rodriguez, Eddie (D)	4%-F
Rodriguez, Justin (D)	5%-F	Romero, Ramon (D)	9%-F
Rose, Toni (D)	7%-F	Sanford, Scott (R)	86%-B
Schaefer, Matt (R)	95%-A	Schofield, Mike (R)	78%-C
Schubert, Leighton (R)	78%-C	Shaheen, Matt (R)	97%-A
Sheets, Kenneth (R)	63%-D	Sheffield, J.D. (R)	38%-F
Simmons, Ron (R)	72%-C	Simpson, David (R)	90%-A
Smith, Wayne (R)	54%-F	Smithee, John (R)	66%-D
Spitzer, Stuart (R)	93%-A	Springer, Drew (R)	85%-B
Stephenson, Phil (R)	63%-D	Strickland, Jonathan (R)	97%-A
Straus, Joe (R)	Only voted for himself	Thompson, Ed (R)	65%-D
Thompson, Senfronia (D)	10%-F	Tinderholt, Tony (R)	91%-A
Turner, Chris (D)	6%-F	Turner, E. Scott (R)	97%-A
Turner, Sylvester (D)	5%-F	VanDeaver, Gary (R)	54%-F
Villalba, Jason (R)	52%-F	Vo, Hubert (D)	9%-F
Walle, Armando (D)	9%-F	White, James (R)	81%-B
White, Molly (R)	95%-A	Workman, Paul (R)	55%-F
Wray, John (R)	76%-C	Wu, Gene (D)	2%-F
Zedler, Bill (R)	95%-A	Zerwas, John (R)	52%-F