



# Texas Eagle Forum

April 2017

Dear Eagles,

This season has been a busy one as I juggle trips to Austin, homeschool my kids, and keep the home fires burning. Without the support of my wonderful husband, Scott, and my incredible children, this would NOT be possible. We know God is our provision, and we hope to walk in His leading, but it still takes action on our part. My family has all pitched in, from doing laundry to making birthdays really special—specifically for the youngest of our team, nine-year-old Zeke. If you would, keep them all in your prayers!

I also want to thank Marilyn Statler (our incredible administrator and editor), Bunni Pounds and her team (who help us with our digital world, events, and fundraising), and our intern, Bethany Jarrell (who has done so much for me—researching bills and helping with projects along the way). These ladies are amazing, and keep TEF moving along and me on focus. It is a delight to work with such professional, Godly women. And thank you all, as well. Your emails are encouraging and worthy, even when we don't agree. I appreciate the respectful exchange of ideas, and the challenging to keep us thinking and praying for direction and wisdom.

This legislative session has been peculiar at best, as I mentioned in one of TEF's *Monday 5 Points of Action* emails we send out weekly. While the Senate has been cranking out a number of bills, most are sitting at the door of the House. Zeke heard me mention this and simply asked, "Why won't they open the door?" Good question, son!

I am learning with every trip to Austin. Things change on a dime in that political bubble. I continue to be grateful for the coalitions that are working together, and those legislators who are trying their best to get good legislation passed and poor legislation stopped. It is clear there can be a wonderful idea but poorly executed legislation. And there is the co-opting of legislation—one legislator files a solid bill and another refiles it, but significantly waters it down as it moves on its way through the process.

I want to encourage you that, while it may seem like not much is happening, there are good bills that are moving quickly to help make Texas strong. These bills include the Grid Bill (SB 83) that would protect our electrical grid from terrorism, as well as natural disasters, bills blocking state money from being invested in nations that fund terrorism, and Anti-Boycotting, Divestment Sanction legislation that protects Israel.

We are also seeing legislation that strengthens penalties against human traffickers getting strong support. These may not get much press, but they are all part of building a strong state that protects the most vulnerable, as well as protect our friends and our State's interests on the international level. Texas has the 12th largest economy in the world; we are a force to be reckoned with, but we must make sure we are working in all arenas to keep Texas strong.

Please pray we will see some clear forms of protections for religious liberties. Last session, there were just several bills; this session there are over 28 religious liberty bills. After sitting in a number of the hearings, it quickly becomes clear that Christians are the target, and there is a move to silence those liberties. If you doubt that, come to Austin or watch the hearings online pertaining to this issue.

LIFE legislation is moving slower than we would hope. Please call your legislators and encourage them to support legislation that protects those who can't protect themselves. There are end-of-life issues and organ-harvesting issues that are being debated in committee, as well.

Be sure and check with your legislators and see where they are when it comes to bringing relief from the ever-increasing property taxes. Let's make sure we come out of this session with strong sanctuary city legislation and real ethics reform—we can't settle for anything less than robust legislation and intent in these areas.

(over, please)


If you don't get our *Top 5 Action Items* each week, please go to [www.texaseagle.org](http://www.texaseagle.org) and sign up. We need you on our team, and we need your influence.

PLEASE reach out and encourage your legislators. Even if you don't agree with them, shock them by telling them you are praying for them! We can have a lasting impact by being engaged and part of the answer, not just someone always wanting to talk about the problems.

Texas offers us only six months every two years (which is a good thing) to get all our business done. This session there are over 7,000 pieces of legislation and only seven weeks left. Our state needs prayer, active citizens, and growing the ranks. You can make that difference!

Thank you for letting me step into your life each month. I want you to know that I love signing thank you notes for your financial gifts and praying for each of you by name as I go through them. Each of you matters to us and the work we are doing to protect Texas families!

God Bless Texas!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Trayce Bradford". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Trayce Bradford  
President of Texas Eagle Forum