



# Texas Eagle Forum

May 2017

Dear Eagles,

*“Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.” ~ Isaiah 9:7*

Texas Eagle Forum has been working in Austin on your behalf every day for the last six months. My prayer when I started this legislative session was to represent Texas Eagle Forum well and to be an encouraging voice in Austin that would hold people accountable and make a difference. Our grassroots organization is so grateful to each of you who have invested time, money, and your talents visiting the legislators in Austin. Thank you for sending emails and making phone calls, and for praying for all of us, the citizen activists, and the legislators leading this great State.

As I said in last month’s letter, this session was peculiar, to say the least. As talented and hardworking as our coalition was, everyone knew going in that we would have challenges. But I don’t think we thought it would be as blatant and stagnant as it was. Critical issues on LIFE and religious liberties flew through the Senate, but languished in the House. We worked hard on those issues, and there is frustration at the stonewalling at every turn in the House.

If you kept updated on what was going on this session, you saw humble legislators fight for Godly principles and conservative policies in our Texas House. At times stars did shine, but unfortunately in the playground atmosphere of this legislature, if they dared stand for principle and the promises they made to the citizens in their district, they were ostracized, and their bills WOULD NOT appear on the floor for a vote.

Now before you start blaming House Speaker Joe Straus, he alone is not to blame. There are other legislators who stepped in to block our bills by holding them up in committees. It is easy to complain but that gets us nowhere.

You as a voter MUST know where your state representative stands on his or her voting record and must work to replace those who don’t stand for truth or fail to vote conservatively on the issues. We must organize in our communities and make sure those who represent us in Austin do just that—represent the constituents of their districts. You and I have to make our votes count, or we will lose this State!

Now for some good news. Texas Eagle Forum supported a number of bills that moved quietly through both houses, and a number of those received unanimous support. Why? Because we pushed back hard on human traffickers and applied some strong protections for trafficked and sexually abused victims.

We worked on legislation supporting Israel and wanted Texas to deny support to countries that are state sponsors of terrorism. Sen. Van Taylor filed several bills that dealt with this issue. Sen. Brandon Creighton and Rep. Phil King carried the anti-BDS legislation that speaks out against companies that boycott Israeli products. I had the opportunity to represent TEF at the bill signing with the Gov. Greg Abbott on May 2nd. These bills fall under a category that we refer to as Texas Strong. We are standing for you.

We also stood firm on a bill keeping foreign law from encroaching on constitutional rights in Texas court rooms, and were grateful to work with Rep. Jeff Leach again on this issue. We continued to communicate on the importance of securing the Texas grid with Sen. Bob Hall. Both men have worked diligently during the last several sessions and have continued the fight this session. We tried several different strategies, brought in some of the top experts to testify, and both bills passed out of their committees unanimously. Due to the timing of printing our newsletter, we are unable to give you the final outcome at this point, but hopefully by the time this letter reaches you, we will have some new laws on the books! Check our Facebook page and our blog for more details.

(over, please)

Throughout this session, you may have wondered why a particular bill was not being covered by TEF. Please know that time, prayer, and consideration were given to each step. We had the ability to learn timely information from various groups and individuals we work with on how and when to put information out. We were able to utilize our limited time, resources, and volunteers to be the most effective that we could be.

TEF is already working on our 2017 Scorecard for after the session. We are also training our activists for upcoming campaign events and the 2019 session. Before all that, however, I will be taking a much needed break with my gracious and wonderful family, prayerfully considering my and our next steps together as an organization.

Stay encouraged! The reality of a session is that we never get everything we want, but we have to look over the time we spent and analyze if was it worth it. I believe it was and is!

Thank you for journeying with Texas Eagle Forum and giving me great grace in my first legislative session as president.

God is faithful,

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