

20th Anniversary
**Texas Muslim
Capitol Day**
TexasMuslimCapitolDay.com



Legislative Agenda – Quick Summary

- **The Freedom of Speech Act – The Right to Boycott – H.B. 1089 - Support**
- **Eid Holiday for State Employees – Support H.B. 373**
- **Abolish Confederate Memorial Day – Support H.B. 51**
- **Property Rights for Immigrants – Against S.B. 147 & S.B. 552**

The Freedom of Speech Act – H.B. 1089

Summary: The Freedom of Speech Act restores Constitutionally Protected rights for all private businesses contracting with Texas. This bill filed by Representative Jon Rosenthal protects the Freedom of speech for state contractors. Currently, Texas has three laws that prohibit state contractors from boycotting the foreign state of Israel, firearms, ammunition manufacturers, and the oil industry. This bill will promote Freedom of speech by Texans and business entities to conduct business the best way they see fit.

Main Points:

- **Competitiveness for Texas Businesses:** For the Texas business sector to remain competitive, the government should not add arbitrary burdensome regulations. This bill aims to promote Freedom of speech by allowing contractors to boycott other companies that don't align with their values.
- **Boycott is a first amendment freedom of speech** that the Texas Legislature has eroded over the past several legislative sessions. The state of Texas should be leading in its promotion of free speech.
- **Save Taxpayer Dollars by Eliminating Expensive Lawsuits:** This bill aims to save Texas taxpayer dollars by eliminating lawsuits that have come up to counter previous attempts to limit the Freedom of speech in Texas. In 2019 speech pathologist Bahia Amawi, a contractor at a school sued the state of Texas for not being hired due to her politically held beliefs. In 2022, Rasmy Houssouna sued the city of Houston and was granted a preliminary injunction for his politically held beliefs. This lawsuit cost taxpayers dollars to be thrown away to defend an unconstitutional law. Texas should not be wasting taxpayer dollars to support an unjust law.

Ask: Will you support H.B. 1089 to defend the Freedom of Speech in Texas?

Eid Holiday for State Employees – H.B. 373

Summary: The Texas Muslim population is a vibrant and quickly growing community, and countless Muslims call Texas their home and make up an ever-growing presence in the workforce. To make Texas a more welcoming place for American Muslims who bring their talent, wealth, families, sense of community service, and determination to improve the state, we urge the Texas legislature to support H.B. 373. This bill will allow state employees to have an optional holiday on the two days holidays of "Eid-Al-Fitr," "Eid-Al-Adha," and Diwali.

What is Eid? In the Islamic religious tradition, there are two holidays. The first is "Eid-Al-Fitr," which is celebrated after Ramadan, a month of fasting for Muslims. During this month, Muslims refrain from eating, drinking, and intimacy with their spouse from pre-dawn till sunset. At the end of Ramada, Muslims celebrate with Eid-Al-Fitr. The second holiday, "Eid-Al-Adha," is a celebration to mark the conclusion of

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the Hajj pilgrimage. Millions of people worldwide visit the Holy City of Mecca to commemorate the life and legacy of Prophet Abraham (Ibrahim in Arabic). During Abraham's life, he was tested to sacrifice his son Ishmael to God. However, before the sacrifice, Ishmael was replaced by a Ram which was offered in his place. Muslims engage in rituals to commemorate that sacrifice and devotion to the Lord.

Main Points:

- It gives State Employees an optional holiday to take off from work.
- Deriving the dates of Eid Holidays will be based on calculations to be predictable years in advance.
- It makes Texas more competitive and attractive to American Muslims to migrate to the state, adding their businesses, labor, skills, and work ethic.

Ask: Support H.B. 373 and allow state employees to take optional time off to celebrate Eid Holidays and Diwali.

Abolish Confederate Memorial Day – H.B. 51

Summary: Confederate Memorial Day became an official holiday in Texas in 1974, one year after the Federal government recognized Martin Luther King's birthday. This Memorial Day does not help to educate Texans about the confederacy or increase their understanding of U.S. history. Instead, it is a blatant, ugly legacy of our state to curtail African Americans' civil rights movement and impact. It's time Texas brought people together instead of dividing them and correcting this wrong by abolishing Confederate Memorial Day.

Ask: Support H.B. 51 and Abolish Confederate Memorial Day

Property Rights for Immigrants – S.B. 147 and S.B. 552

Summary: This bill makes it illegal for anyone with Chinese, Russian, Iranian, or North Korean citizenship to own property in the State of Texas. This bill is inherently racist, presents severe burdens relating to enforceability, would create countless lawsuits related to property rights, and should not be given any support or consideration.

Main Points:

- Many individuals and businesses with Chinese, Russian and Iranian citizenship conduct business in the state of Texas and own property as part of that business. This bill will create chaos in Texas and damage business investments and productivity. The problems are too numerous to mention but below are a few:
 - How would this bill be enforced? Would the State of Texas forcefully dissolve existing businesses and seize all property and assets? Would the state of Texas forcefully evict families from their purchased homes, condos, and other living spaces?
 - If individuals become U.S. citizens and discard their previous citizenship, would the state of Texas return their seized property or reimburse them with a fair market value of their property?
- **Racist:** This bill is inherently racist, targeting law-abiding legal residents and legally operating companies with the risk of seizures of property simply because of national origin and legal status.

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- **Lawsuits:** If passed, this bill would cost Texas Taxpayers undo financial burden through countless cases brought by those impacted by this bill.

Ask: This effort is racist, bad for business, bad for Texas taxpayers, unenforceable, and overall, a waste of the Texas legislature's time. We strongly urge you to oppose SB 147 and SB 552

Best Practices When Visiting Official Offices

Remember, you may be meeting with a staff member instead of your actual Representative or Senator.

Best Practices When Meeting Elected Officials

Do's	Don'ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign one person to lead your group in the meeting. Have this person help introduce everyone and introduce the legislative agenda. • Give a good introduction about who you are, where you go to school, your work, about the Muslim community, and why you decided to participate in Capitol Day • Dress appropriately for the meeting • Don't be shy to talk and share your opinion. • Know your facts and remember you don't have to be an expert. • Remember the golden rule! "Are you going to support or oppose this bill?" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay focused on the meeting. Do not answer phones, engage in inside conversation, etc. • Be thankful, even if the person disagrees with you. • Don't spend too long on one topic. Remember you only have 15 minutes top. Go through all the points. • Don't get angry, remain polite. If they disagree with you ask why instead of becoming defensive. • Don't talk about things not on the agenda.