



Issues Brief

(Part 1 of 2)

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for
State Representative
Texas House District 98

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Available on the web at
<http://www.vickipedia.me>

Update on your State Representative:
What's going on while you are at work?

- **Vicki Truitt authored a **Mandatory Healthcare** plan!**
- **Vicki Truitt is pushing for **Higher taxes!****
- **Vicki Truitt voted for a **NEEDLE EXCHANGE** program!**
- **Vicki Truitt voted **FOR** Toll Roads!**
- **Vicki Truitt voted to *increase* the property tax rate!**
- **Etc...**

My race against the incumbent is not one about personalities. Rather it is about ideology – the difference between a conservative view, and an increasingly liberal approach.

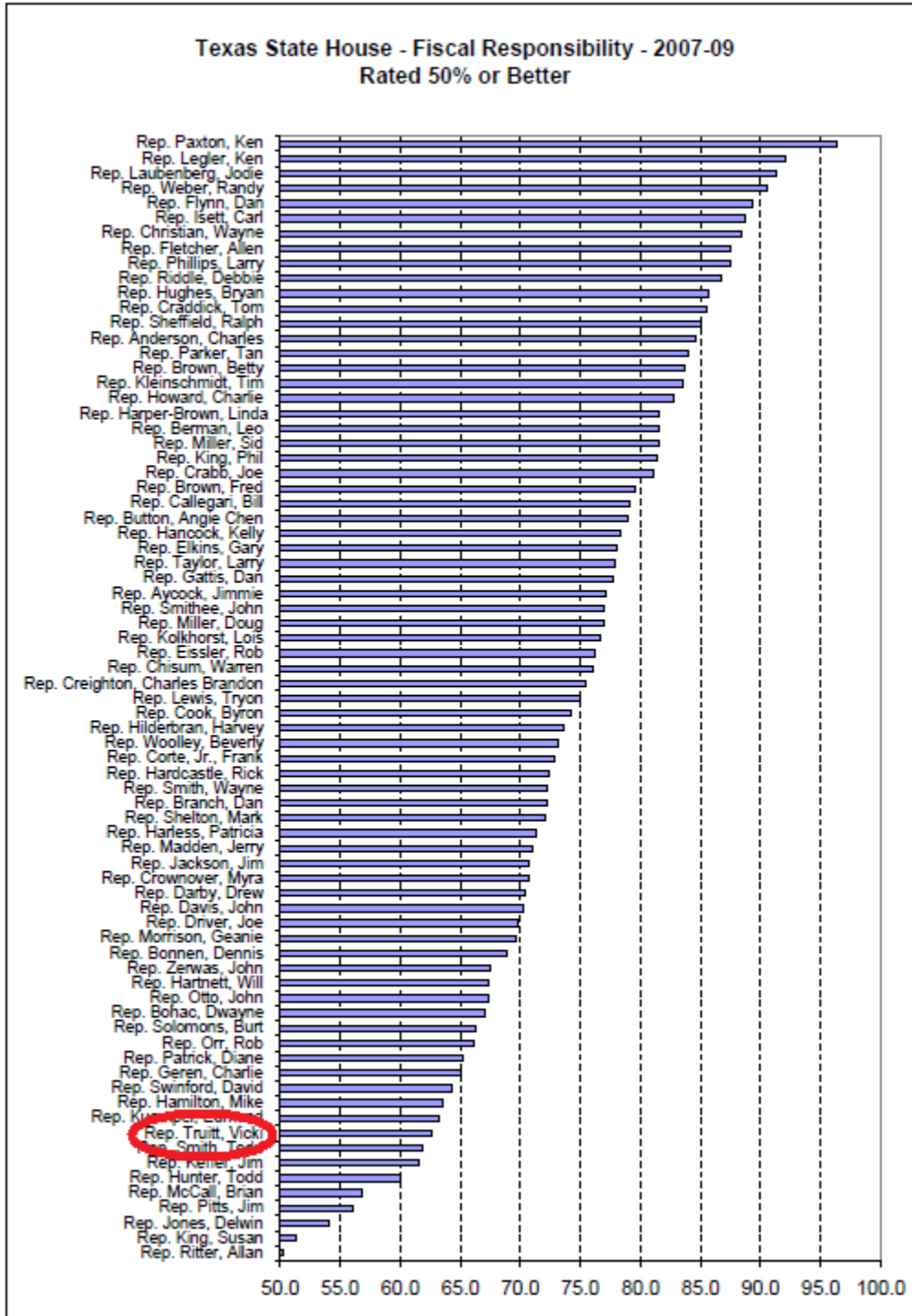
I stand for lower taxes, less government and more freedom. Here I compare my views, with those of my opponent.

	GIOVANNI	Incumbent
Taxes	I will never vote for any increases in taxes or fees.	Vicki Truitt supports higher taxes – taxes that will hurt residents, consumers and local business.
Toll Roads	I do not support tolls on existing roads.	Vicki Truitt voted against the right of voters to have a say in whether or not a free lane is converted into a toll lane.
Trans – Texas Corridor	Against TTC. I will be present for all votes – I will represent my district, not hide.	Vicki Truitt was absent for the bill – why? Transportation is one of the biggest issues in the 98 th district.
Transparency	Voter apathy has increased because there is a perception that special interest groups affect policy. We should know all campaign contributions before a vote.	Chapter 3. for details
Job Creation	It is hard for the government to create jobs, but it is easy for them to destroy employment in Texas.	Working with liberals, Truitt’s bills have hurt local companies and have resulted in expensive lawsuits.
Healthcare	I believe that mandatory healthcare is wrong – it is an attack on our freedoms and our liberties. I will fight on the state level for nullification.	Vicki Truitt stood alone and AUTHORED a mandatory healthcare plan.
Needle Exchange Programs	I believe that we don’t need to add new state programs, especially those that have been shown to increase drug use.	Vicki Truitt voted in committee to facilitate a needle exchange program in Texas
Government Regulations	I am for more personal responsibility, less taxes and less bureaucracy.	Chapter 8 for a list of anti-business, anti-liberty votes that worked to make government bigger.
Life Issues	I will be pro-active and pro-life. I will work to stop counties from using taxpayer money for abortions and I will work to remove the death panels that currently exist in Texas.	Chapter 9.
Illegal Immigration	We need to needs to oppose those items that promote illegal immigration such as bilingual education. We need to make English the official state language.	Vicki Truitt ranks poorly amongst her peers on illegal immigration. (pg. 18)

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Fiscal Responsibility Index: District 98 is one of the most Conservative Districts in Texas and yet, D98's Representative Ranks at the bottom of all Republicans.

The Commonsense Citizens Network
<http://commonsensecitizens.net/>



Chapter 1: Transportation

HB 9 (Truitt)- “Relating to transportation funding in this state.”

- Local Option Gas Tax bill
- Senate companion **SB 855 (Carona)**
- Permits a 15-cent statewide increase of the gas tax within 10 years
- 10-cent-per-gallon local gas tax
- represents a potential 25-cent increase per gallon, in addition to the current 20-cent gas tax
- a total increase of 125% over the next 10 years
- the House bill gets voted out of the House Transportation committee, but goes no further
- Truitt sponsors the identical Senate bill, SB 855
- SB 855 gets voted out of the House Transportation committee 6-1, Rep. Yvonne Davis being the only ‘nay;’ vote, and sent to the Calendars committee where it was set on the General State Calendar, but never made it to the floor of the House for debate
- Many conservative groups opposed these bills:
 - Texas Public Policy Foundation
 - Texas Eagle Forum
 - Texans for Fiscal Responsibility
 - Americans for Prosperity
 - Free Market Foundation
- The bill, as passed out of the Transportation Committee, required voter approval before the tax increase would be implemented, which gave the false sense that it would only happen if the people of Texas wanted the increase. However, just the idea that any legislator, especially any Republican legislator, would choose to increase taxes during such a recession as the country is experiencing, begs the question of motives. Texas is in a relatively good position through this recession due, in large part, to the fact that it has kept taxes low. Any increase in any taxes right now would surely be detrimental to the state’s economy. Truitt does not seem to agree with this, and it’s likely that she will again try to push a local option tax bill in the next legislative session.
- The idea behind this bill was to create a local way to fund transportation issues, including rail. However, Truitt seems to have forgotten about the option that already exists. The ability for voters to allocate between 0.25 and 1.00 percent of local sales tax revenue to fund transportation-related improvements already exists in statute. However, many cities have chosen to use sales tax revenue to fund other areas such as economic development. Moreover, some cities have actually chosen to keep their taxing capacity at a minimum, rather than fund transportation projects. The voters of the North Central Texas Region are some which have chosen to not fully fund transportation out of their sales tax revenue. Based on information from the Comptroller’s office, Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) estimates that in the calendar year of 2008, “more than \$300 million could have been generated for transportation if the municipalities had shifted their focus to funding transit authorities.¹” Perhaps legislators, instead of creating a new way for local governments to raise taxes, should appeal to local governments to review their budgets to see where they could take funds away from and appropriate that money towards transportation projects.
- Backing Truitt’s push of this bill was Austin-based lobby firm, HillCo Partners, LLP. Between Fort Worth, Arlington, and Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition (who has also contributed to Truitt’s campaign over the years), it was agreed to pay the lobby firm \$275,000, as well as petition the smaller suburban cities in the area to contribute funds for HillCo’s lobbying efforts.

¹ http://www.texaspolicy.com/publications.php?report_year=2009

HB 300 (Isett)- “Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Department of Transportation, including the transfer of certain functions to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation; providing penalties.”

- Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Sunset bill
- Because of the extensive work that the House Transportation Committee did on this bill, Chairman Pickett was the member who laid out the bill on the House floor, and whose job it was to move the bill through the floor debate and amendments, along with the bill’s author, Rep. Isett
- This bill was not passed by the Legislature
- Key votes on amendments:

Amendment 1, Ruth Jones McClendon

This amendment would have established a statewide elected Transportation Commissioner, much like the Comptroller, GLO Commissioner, or the Agricultural Commissioner. The Trans. Commissioner would replace the current 5-member appointed commission. This would make TxDOT more accountable to the legislature and the public, as well as save money from lessening the salaries of the commissioners.

Carl Isett (the author of the bill, as well as the Vice Chairman of the Sunset Commission) motioned to table this amendment because it would mean that the legislature would be creating a statewide elected office statutorily and not constitutionally, thereby making the office holder accountable more to the legislature than to the public. It would be a 4 year term, at the end of which the legislature could just as easily abolish the position if they were unhappy. Also, Rep. Isett made the point that because of the vast changes the bill was already making to TxDOT, now was not the time to make this additional significant change.

The motion to table Amendment 1 failed. Truitt voted in favor of this motion, the vote was: Motion to table fails, 54 Yeas, 81 Nays.

Summary: Truitt agreed with Rep. Isett and did not want to replace the 5-member appointed commission with a state-elected Transportation Commissioner. There was no record vote on the amendment, only on the motion to table the amendment. The vote, however, showed how the body would vote on the amendment itself. Truitt would have voted against the amendment. The amendment was adopted to the bill, after an additional provision was made by Rep. Leibowitz requiring regionally-elected commissioners, who would serve below the Transportation Commissioner. This amendment would, by creating a state-wide elected office for one Transportation Commissioner, create more accountability and responsibility to the people of Texas and the legislature. Much like the office of the Comptroller, the state would be able to look towards one person who is in charge of all of TxDOT. The responsibility would not be fracture the way it currently is with the 5 appointed commissioners.

Amendment #49, Hubert Vo

This amendment would have established the ability for any legislator to request an Economic Impact Study to be conducted before each new TxDOT project. The purpose would be to know the impact a new project would have on the businesses surrounding that project.

Chairman Pickett motioned to table this amendment because an Economic Impact Study would be extremely expensive and take a lot of time. He raised the question of whether Texas would even be able to

afford these studies. He also made the point that this could establish a way for any legislator to delay a project, no matter what the reason.

The motion to table Amendment 49 prevailed. Truitt voted in favor of this motion, the vote was: Motion to table prevails, 86 Yeas, 51 Nays.

Summary: Truitt agreed with Pickett, and did not want to allow another step in a new transportation project. However, this amendment would have allowed businesses to have a voice in the impact of any new transportation project, and it would have placed a provision for taking into account this economic impact before any new project was approved by TxDOT.

Amendment #57, David Leibowitz

Under current law, in order to convert free lanes or highways into toll lanes or roads, voter approval is required first. In HB300, as written, voter approval to convert a free highway (or free lanes) into a toll road or lanes is removed. This amendment puts voter approval into HB300, thereby keeping in law. There was no record vote on the amendment because it was acceptable to the author and therefore adopted.

Chairman Pickett motioned to table this amendment. The motion to table failed, 60 Yeas, 66 Nays. Truitt voted in favor of this motion.

Summary: Truitt did not agree with this amendment, and voted against it. A vote for this motion is a vote against the right of voters to have a say in whether or not a free lane is converted into a toll lane.

Amendment #62, Armando Walle

This amendment said that TxDOT may enter into a CDA (comprehensive development agreement) only after a 2-year public comment period, during which TxDOT would have to consider competing proposals for the toll project. A CDA is the means by which TxDOT enters into a public-private partnership for development and management of toll roads.

Chairman Pickett motioned to table because of the cost associated with waiting for 2 additional years before beginning development on a transportation project. After 2 years, the cost of a project would increase by at least 40%, according to Pickett.

The motion to table prevailed. Truitt voted in favor of this motion, the vote was 88 Yeas, 41 Nays.

Summary: This amendment would have established the ability for the public to have a voice in any new transportation project proposed by TxDOT, thereby making TxDOT even more accountable to the public. Pickett didn't like it because of the increase in costs if a project was still approved after the 2 year period. However, the idea of this amendment was aimed at public input and transparency. Truitt voted for this motion. A vote for this motion is a vote against public input of new transportation projects.

Chapter 2: Trans-Texas Corridor

During the 78th Texas Legislative Session, a bill was filed by the House Transportation Committee Chairman Mike Krusee: **HB 3588**, relating to the construction, acquisition, financing, maintenance, operation, ownership, and control of transportation facilities and the progress, improvement, policing, and safety of transportation in the state; imposing criminal penalties. This became known as the Trans-Texas Corridor (TTC) bill.

On January 30th, 2002, Governor Rick Perry asked the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to create an implementation plan for his new transportation concept, the TTC². On April 16, 2003 during the following legislative session, Chairman Krusee filed the bill that would enable the development of the 4,000³ mile toll way system. During the House floor debate on May 9, 2003, Rep. Vicki Truitt proposed two amendments, which were both adopted by the body. The first amendment, #24, dealt with a small portion of the bill that addressed the establishment of a trauma care facility account. This amendment struck five lines that would have allowed the administrator of a trauma facility to request the disbursement of funds. Truitt's second amendment, #55, was in regards to information included on a drivers license, adding ethnicity to the list⁴. After a lengthy floor debate, and many amendments, the bill was voted on by the House in its third reading on May 10th. Rep. Truitt was absent for this vote⁵.

The importance and weight that this bill would have on the transportation system in District 98 and Texas has thus far been unmatched. This was, arguably, the most important piece of legislation to result from the 78th Legislature, and for Rep. Truitt to be absent for the vote seems to mean that either she didn't care about the impact it would have on her district, or quite possibly that she was unwilling to take the stand that her community wanted her to take- to vote against the Trans-Texas Corridor. The amendments she successfully added to the bill were minor and didn't address the issues and concerns that District 98 had. For the next several years, Texans raised their voices in opposition at town hall meetings organized by TxDOT, with their elected officials, and in public hearings all over the state. It was because of this public protest, and not because of the legislators of Texas, that the TTC has been abolished.

The public outcry was due, in large part, to the contract between TxDOT and Cintra, a Spanish company who specializes in building toll roads. The contract would have allowed Cintra to own these newly built toll roads, thereby effectively owning a part of this state. Texans were outraged. There were several companies who had bid on the TTC project, and to award the contract to a foreign company seemed to be a gross mismanagement. However, for those companies who lost the bids for the TTC project, the state awarded them a compensation for their time and effort. The legislature capped that payment at \$250,000 during the 2007 session. However, a bill was passed by Senator Carona and Representative Geren, **SB 882**, during the 81st session that removes the cap altogether. Taxpayer money is being used to pay commissions to companies for lost bids on transportation projects. Due to this bill, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) has agreed to award \$3.6 million to Cintra to "cover any costs incurred before losing the project⁶."

² http://www.dot.state.tx.us/about_us/present_2001.htm

³ <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=78R&Bill=HB3588>

⁴ <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/Amendments.aspx?LegSess=78R&Bill=HB3588>

⁵ <http://www.journals.house.state.tx.us/hjrn/78r/html/home.htm>

⁶ <http://www.star-telegram.com/news/story/1536084.html>

Chapter 3: Vicki Truitt's Authored Legislation 81st Legislative Session

Bills Passed out of the Capitol during the 81st Legislative Session:

- **HB 693**, effective immediately. Relating to exemption from the structural pest control license requirements for certain falconers.”
- **HB 1084**, effective on 9/1/09. Relating to shipment of wine to ultimate consumers.
 - Beer Alliance of Texas testified in favor of this bill on 3/11/09, and contributed \$500 to Truitt’s campaign on 4/29/08, \$500 on 10/12/07
 - Licensed Beverage Distributors testified in favor of this bill on 3/11/09, and contributed \$1,000 to Truitt’s campaign on 12/11/08
 - Texas Package Stores Association testified in favor of this bill on 3/11/09, and contributed \$1,000 to Truitt’s campaign on 4/28/08
 - Licensed Beverage Distributors testified in favor of this bill on 3/11/09, and contributed \$1,000 to Truitt’s campaign on 12/11/08
- **HB 2039**, effective immediately. Relating to the transfer of certain state property from the Department of Aging and Disability Services to certain community mental health and mental retardation centers.
 - Danette Castle with the Texas County of Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR) Centers testified in favor of this bill on 4/2/09, and contributed \$500 to Truitt’s campaign on 9/2/08
- **HB 2196**, effective on 9/1/09. Relating to the establishment of a workgroup to study and make recommendations on integration of health and behavioral health services.
 - Texas Health Resources testified in favor of this bill on 3/17/09, and contributed \$250 to Truitt’s campaign on 8/26/08.
 - Danette Castle with the Texas County of Community MHMR Centers testified in favor of this bill on 3/17/09, and contributed \$500 to Truitt’s campaign on 9/2/08.
 - Texas Psychological Association testified in favor of this bill on 3/17/09, and contributed \$750 to Truitt’s campaign on 10/28/08.
 - Texas Hospital Association testified in favor of this bill on 3/17/09, and contributed \$1,000 to Truitt’s campaign on 8/16/08, and \$1,000 on 1/7/08.
 - Texas Medical Association testified in favor of this bill on 3/17/09, and contributed \$1,000 to Truitt’s campaign on 6/29/09, \$5,000 on 10/26/08 and \$97.51 on 11/20/08, for a total of \$6,097.51 since November 2008.
 - Texas Academy of Physician Assistants testified in favor of this bill on 3/17/09, and contributed \$500 to Truitt’s campaign on 12/13/08.
- **HB 2283**, effective 9/1/09. Relating to increasing state employee participation in the TexaSaver Program.

- **HB 2303**, effective immediately. Relating to the scope of services of and the persons who may be provided services by a community center.
 - Texas Council of Community MHMR Centers testified in favor of this bill on 4/2/09, and contributed \$500 to Truitt's campaign on 9/2/08.
- **HB 2559**, effective 9/1/09. Relating to the powers and duties of and benefits available under the Employee Retirement System (ERS) of Texas and to a chronic disease prevention and wellness pilot program administered by the system and the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for department employees.
- **HB 2751**, effective 9/1/09. Relating to participation and credit in, benefits from, and the administration of the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System.
- **HB 2774**, effective 9/1/09. Relating to self-directed and semi-independent status of state financial regulatory agencies and the licensing and regulation of certain persons involved in residential mortgage lending; making an appropriation; providing penalties.
 - Texas Association of Mortgage Brokers testified in favor of this bill on 3/25/09, and contributed \$250 to Truitt's campaign on 10/29/08.
- **HB 2779**, effective 9/1/09. Relating to the regulation of certain mortgage broker employees who are residential mortgage loan originators; providing penalties.
 - Texas Association of Mortgage Brokers testified in favor of this bill on 3/25/09, and contributed \$250 to Truitt's campaign on 10/29/08.
- **HB 3053**, laid on the table subject to call, Senate companion **SB 1661** was taken up and passed. Effective immediately. Relating to child support liens on real property.
- **HB 3347**, effective immediately. Relating to plan qualification provisions for and certain supplemental payments and health insurance deductions under the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) of Texas. Complied state law with federal statute changes. (Plan ultimately ruled unconstitutional)
- **HB 3480**, effective 9/1/09. Relating to certain investment products made available to certain public school employees and the companies authorized to provide those products; providing civil penalties.
 - TCG Consulting testified in favor of this bill on 4/1/09, and contributed \$1,000 to Truitt's campaign on 9/22/08.
- **HB 3587**, laid on the table subject to call, Senate companion **SB 968** was taken up and passed. Effective immediately. Relating to interactive water features and fountains.
- **HB 4341**, effective 9/1/09. Relating to the regulation of discount health care programs by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI); providing penalties.
 - Texas Medical Association testified in favor of this bill on 4/7/09, and contributed \$1,000 to Truitt's campaign on 6/29/09, \$5,000 on 10/26/08 and \$97.51 on 11/20/08, for a total of \$6,097.51 since November 2008.

Chapter 4: Sample Business-Killing Legislation

Competition is what drives a free-market economy. The role of government is one that should allow competition to continue to thrive in the private market. This is done through keeping legislation at a minimum, staying out of private entity disputes, and maintaining fairness in the market. Two identical pieces of legislation were filed in the 81st Texas legislative session: Sen. Wendy Davis' **SB 1467**, and Rep. Vicki Truitt's **HB 2174**.

These bills address the issue of competition amongst cement producers in Texas. A pending lawsuit of a wet cement producer in the North Texas area against several cities in North Texas alleges that the favoring of dry process-derived cement plants by these cities does not take into account the actuality of the plants' impact on the environment, and moreover, stifles free-market competition. They claim this favoring is illegal, along with the fact that they claim their wet process-derived cement plant is more environmentally safe than the other 13 dry cement plants in the region. The legislation filed by Davis and Truitt codify in statute that local governmental agencies can give preference to vendors who can prove that they use cement from dry cement producers for local projects throughout the state.

Truitt filed a second bill, **HB 2175**, which would actually restrict the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) from using a vendor who does not procure their cement from a dry processing cement plant. This bill would have restricted vendors from all over the state from even bidding on TxDOT projects, which would have had devastating ripple effects to cement producers. This bill would have eliminated, through legislation, the ability for vendors and cement producers to compete on a quality of service and product level, as well as cutting out the important role that the consumer plays. By taking away the right to choose away from consumers, Truitt's bills would have stifled the market and injured businesses.

Chapter 5: Healthcare

In the 81st Legislative session, Rep. Truitt filed **HB 1875**, relating to requiring a health benefit plan for enrollment at certain public institutions of higher education. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Higher Education, and in closing comments at the hearing on March 25th, 2009, Truitt said that her bill would ensure that colleges informed students about health benefit plans that were available to the students. However, the actual bill mandates a student have health insurance in order to be allowed to enroll at a four-year public institution of higher education. This is an unfunded mandate- there is no provision in the bill or in accompanying bills that appropriates state funds to cover the high costs of individual health care for the students, nor does it appropriate funds to the institutions to fund any group benefit programs they may offer to their students in lieu of private coverage. The cost would come out of the students' pockets directly. There is a section in the bill that allows for the cost of the health insurance to be covered by financial aid provided by the university, which the students could then pay back upon graduating. What wasn't addressed was the fact that the majority of the financial aid that would cover the healthcare costs would be coming from loans. Which means that students would be accruing even more debt, and would actually end up paying upwards of triple the initial cost of the healthcare plans because of accruing interest on those loans.

Another point that was raised in the committee hearing is whether or not the amount that students are already paying for Student Health Centers in their semester dues will be supplanted by their monthly health benefit plan premiums. Rep. Truitt's answer to this question was, "that would be up to the university to work out...but if they are catastrophic [events] it might simply enhance [the coverage]." This would mean that students would be paying for duplicative services.

HB 1875 was never voted out of committee, presumably because of the objections raised during its hearing. Some committee members were uncomfortable with the idea of raising the cost of attending public institutions through a mandated health benefit plan. Others didn't like the idea of the legislature forcing students to have health insurance, as it should be left to the individual to decide upon. The underlying problem of an unfunded mandate was left unresolved, as Truitt's bill placed all the financial burden on the students of Texas.

Chapter 6: Needle Exchange Program

In 2007, the legislature approved **SB 10**, which established a pilot program for a needle exchange program in Bexar County, it was signed by the Governor, and put into place. However, Bexar County District Attorney Susan Reed said she intended to prosecute anyone who distributed needles before the program was approved locally. DA Reed said the law authorizing the program was faulty, and because of her opposition, the program never got off the ground.

So, in the 81st session, Senator Deuell filed a bill, **SB 188**, which would stop any prosecution of people connected to the aforementioned program, or any other programs set up. It authorizes local health authorities to “operate or contract with certain organizations to operate a disease control program that allows one-for-one syringe exchange.” There were two house bills filed that were similar, HB 142 and HB 272, but neither of these bills went anywhere in the House, and were immediately referred to a subcommittee of the Public Health committee. Truitt was not involved in the subcommittees, but she does sit on Public Health. When the senate bill came over to the House, the Public Health committee voted on it- Truitt voted yes, and only three members voted no: Kolkhorst, Hopson, and Laubenberg. The clock ran out before SB 10 was able to have its floor debate in the House. Most likely, it will come up again, though.

Chapter 7: Contributions

Between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008, Representative Truitt received contributions totaling **\$283,162.31**

Of that, she received **\$201,796.45** from Political Action Committees (PACs) and special interest groups and individuals. These contributions make up for **71%** of Truitt's total campaign contributions for 2008.

Chapter 8: Vicki Truitt Chooses Less Personal Responsibility, More Taxes and More Bureaucracy

- **HB 873**, (D- Travis), relating to incentives for the film, television, video, and digital interactive media production industries, was passed this last session. In 2005 during the 79th Legislative session, a bill was passed that established the Film Industry Incentive Program. During the 80th session, it was renamed to the Moving Image Industry Incentive Program as well as funded it for the first time. The Music, Film, Television and Multimedia Office within the Governor’s Office is in charge of administering this program. HB 873 amends the definition of “moving image project” within the government code to include instructional or educational videos, increases incentives for filming in certain areas, and changes the requirements to qualify for a moving image project incentive grant. This bill lowers the requirements for projects to be eligible to receive grants, thus making it easier to receive the grants and allowing more projects that would have previously been disqualified to now qualify. The bill also removes the cap on grants that may be awarded. Truitt voted in favor of this bill, and it is now in effect.
- **HB 681**, by Rep. Jessica Farrar (D-Harris), relating to requiring warning signs regarding mercury levels in certain fish, was filed and passed through the House. However, it was left pending in the Senate committee on Health & Human Services. This bill would have required retailers selling fish to post signs detailing the health risks associated with certain fish. It would have caused an unnecessary burden on retailers, as well as possibly restaurant owners, to post signs at their own cost regarding controversial health issues. Truitt voted in favor of this bill. The bill was held up on the Senate side and was not passed out of the 81st Legislature.
- **HB 4328**, by Rep. Mark Strama, relating to the establishment of the Interagency Literacy Council for the study, promotion, and enhancement of literacy in this state was passed in the Texas House on May 6, 2007 and signed into effect on June 19th. The bill establishes a government council to address the growing problem of illiteracy in Texas. However, there are many private organizations already dedicated to this task throughout the state. Truitt voted for this added layer of redundant bureaucracy.
- **HB 2888**, by Rep. Armando Martinez, relating to financial assistance administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, was vetoed by the Governor on June 19, 2009. “This bill would have taken funds away from the Temporary Assistance for Need Families (TANF) program to fund a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance grant program to be administered through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Taking TANF dollars away from their intended purpose of serving clients to fund this program is unnecessary. These funds should be used to benefit people, not create more government bureaucracy.⁷” Additionally, there are several non-profit and community-based organizations that offer this form of tax assistance. Truitt voted in favor of this bill.
- **HJR 112**, by Rep. Valinda Bolton, proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize the imposition of additional ad valorem tax for emergency services districts, subject to voter approval, at a rate not to exceed five cents for the acquisition of land, equipment, or apparatus or the construction of capital improvements failed to pass the House on May 11, 2009. This bill would have raised property taxes in

⁷ Excerpt from Governor Perry’s Veto Proclamation

<http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/scanned/vetoes/81/hb2888.pdf#navpanes=0>

the state, under the guise of “subject to voter approval,” so that emergency districts could fund capital improvements. Truitt voted in favor of raising property taxes in Texas.

- **HB 130**, by Rep. Diane Patrick, relating to an enhanced quality full-day prekindergarten program provided by public school districts in conjunction with community providers, was vetoed by the Governor on June 19, 2009. This bill established a grant program for districts to expand pre-k programs to full-day to the cost of \$25mil for this biennium. However, under the current grant program that appropriation would serve almost five times more students than the formal set up in HB 130. Not only did Truitt vote for this additional increase in spending, but she Co-authored the bill.
- **HB 300**, by Rep. Carl Isett, relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Department of Transportation, including the transfer of certain functions to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation; providing penalties was unable to gain approval by the Legislature.

Chapter 9

Pro-Life Bills Authored by Vicki Truitt

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Chapter 10: Immigration Related Issues

http://www.ircot.com/pending_legislation.htm

IRCOT IMMIGRATION RELATED RATINGS FOR TEXAS LEGISLATORS

81ST LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT CARD

IRCOT rating of legislators relates to their actions during the 81st Texas Legislative session only:

***Texas Defenders** – Authored, Co-Authored, demonstrated consistent and/or early support of several vital immigration related bills.*

***Honorable Mention** – Demonstrated support for IRCOT backed immigration legislation.*

STRONGEST TEXAS DEFENDERS

Representatives

Rep. Leo Berman [R-Tyler]
Rep. Dennis Bonnen [R-Angleton]
Rep. Betty Brown [R-Terrell] – Voter ID
Rep. Dan Flynn [R-Van]
Rep. Linda Harper-Brown [R-Irving] – Voter ID
Rep. Patricia Harless [R-Spring]
Rep. Charlie Howard [R-Sugarland]
Rep. Jim Jackson [R-Carrollton]
Rep. Debbie Riddle [R-Tomball]

HONORABLE MENTION

Republican Representatives:

Rep. Angie Chen Button [R—Garland]
Rep. Wayne Christian [R-Center]
Rep. Frank Corte [R-San Antonio]
Rep. Brandon Creighton [R-Conroe]
Rep. Allen Fletcher [R-Tomball]
Rep. Dan Gattis [R-Georgetown]
Rep. Brian Hughes [R-Mineola]
Rep. Tim Kleinschmidt [R-Lexington]
Rep. Jodie Laubenberg [R-Parker]
Rep. Ken Legler [R-Pasadena]
Rep. Tommy Merritt [R – Longview]
Rep. Sid Miller [R-Stephenville]
Rep. Ken Paxton [R-McKinney]
Rep. Larry Phillips [R-Sherman]
Rep. Ralph Sheffield [R-Temple]
Rep. John Zerwas [R-Richmond]



Where's Vicki?

According to Ircot: Legislators not listed either worked against Texas families or were considered ineffective during session on the most important issue facing Texas.

GIOVANNI WILL BE AT THE TOP OF THE LIST

Appendix

- 1) Texas Public Policy Foundation publication ‘The Existing Local Option for Transportation’ by The Honorable Talmadge Heflin and James Quintero, April 21, 2009
http://www.texaspolicy.com/publications.php?report_year=2009
- 2) Timeline of events for TxDOT
http://www.dot.state.tx.us/about_us/present_2001.htm
- 3) Texas Legislature online, text and history of HB 3588, 78R
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- 4) Texas Legislature online, list of amendments for HB 3588, 78R
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<http://www.lonestarreport.org/Management/BlogManagement/tabid/62/EntryId/88/Local-Option-Plan-proponents-protesters-lock-horns.aspx>
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<http://www.ethics.state.tx.us/>

A small sample of recent Contributions to Vicki Truitt's Campaign from:

Law Firms, Lobbyists, Gambling and Beverage, Healthcare/Health Insurance related PACS.

Bonus: Transportation and concrete groups.

Contributor

Abbott Laboratories Employee PAC
Ace Cash Express
AkinGump
American Electric Power Committee
American Pharmacy PAC
AmerisourceBergen Corp.
Apartment of Association of Tarrant County
AstraZeneca PAC
Baker Botts Amicus Fund
Beer Alliance of Texas PAC
Blackridge
Brown McCaroll, LLP
Caremark PAC
Cash America International
Charles Railsback (Texas ENT Specialists)
Clear Channel
Clint Hackney (Lobbysit)
Coca Cola Enterprises Inc.
Compass Bankshares Inc
ConocoPhillips Spirit PAC
Dan Craine (Miller Distributing of Fort Worth)
Dan Hinkle (Lobbyist)
Dan Shelley (Lobbyist)
Dan Stultz (Lobbyist)
Danette Castle (Tx Council of MHMR Centers)
David Tesmer (Texas Health Resources)
Dinah Welsh (Lobbyist)
Doug Newton (Rocky Top Ranch)
Douglas Hawthorne (Texas Health Alliance)
Eli Lilly & Company
Emergency Medicine PAC
Energy PAC of TXU Corp
Farmers Employee & Agent PAC
Friends of the University
Funds Available for Involved Reporters
Gail Farhat (Farhat Industries)
Gary Reynolds (Reynolds Asphalt)
Glaxo Smith Kline PAC
HeartPlace PAC
HillCo (Lobbyist)

HOSPAC- State (Tx Hospital Assoc)
Hughes & Luce LLP Committee for Good Government
Independent Bankers Assoc of TX PAC
Jack McCarty (Health Markets)
Jackson Walker, LLP PAC
James Hine (Public Policy Solutions)
James McDermott (MHMR Tarrant Cty)
Jeannie Taraborelli (Pate Transportation Partners)
John Pesce (TCG Advisors LP)
Johnson & Johnson
Karen Oakerson (Pulte Mortgage LLC)
Kilpatric & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis LLP
Larry Hutto (Educational Technology Services)
Licensed Beverage Distributors
Linebarger Goggan Blair & Simpson LLP
Lloyd Gosselink Blevins Rochelle & Townsend
Lock Liddell & Sapp PLLC
Lyondell Chemical Company PAC
Marc Rodruiguez (Public Affairs Consultant)
Mark Malone (Lobbyist)
Marsha Jones (Lobbyist)
Merck PAC
Mike Cochran (TGC Consulting)
Mindy Ellmer (Lobbyist)
Nat'l Assoc of Chain Drug Stores PAC
Nora DelBosque (Lobbyist)
Oncor
PAC of Winstead P.C.
Pediatric Dentists PAC
Pepsico Concerned Citizens Fund
Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott, LLP
Pfizer PAC
Pharmacy PAC
Pinnacle Anesthesia Consultants P.A.
Q PAC
Radio Shack Government Action Fund
ResCare Advocacy Fund
Ryan & Company Texas PAC
Solvay Pharmaceutical Inc. (out of state)
Stan Schleuter Consulting Group
Tenet Health Corp
Texas Academy of Family Physicians PAC
Texas Aggregates & Concrete Assoc
Texas Ambulatory Surgery Center Assoc
Texas Assoc of Health-System Pharmacists
Texas Assoc of Pawnbrokers
Texas Assoc of Realtors

Texas Beverage Alliance of the Texas Package Stores Ass.
Texas Chiropractic Assoc
Texas Consumer Finance
Texas Dental Assoc
Texas Dental Hygiene Asso PAC
Texas Gaming Assoc
Texas Homecare PAC
Texas Hospital Assoc PAC
Texas Land Title Assoc
Texas Medical Assoc
Texas Occupational Therap Assoc
Texas Oil & Gas
Texas Ophthalmological Assoc PAC
Texas Optometric PAC
Texas Osteopathic Medical Assoc
Texas Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Stores
Texas Pipeline Assoc
Texas Podiatric Medical Assoc
Texas Psychological Assoc
Texas Radiological Society
Texas RN/APN PAC
Texas Society of Anesthesiologists
Texas Society of Health-system Pharmacists
Tim Britton (Infinity Oil)
Valero PAC
Vic Suhm (Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition)
Wholesale Beer Distributors of Texas
Wyeth Good Government Fund