

Senator Judith Zaffirini



Reports to the Families of District 21

Dear Friends:

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote that we should strive “to make the future fairer than the past.” The great American poet was right, and ensuring a better future for the families of Senate District (SD 21) and of our great state remains my top priority in the Texas Senate.

SD 21 is home to approximately 800,000 constituents in 18 counties, namely, Bee, Caldwell, Duval, Jim Hogg, Karnes, La Salle, Live Oak, McMullen, San Patricio, Starr, Webb, Wilson and Zapata; and parts of Atascosa, Bexar, Guadalupe, Hays and Travis.

Though our district is vast and diverse, we share important priorities: educational opportunities for all; good jobs; the environment; transportation; public safety; and health and human services, especially for the very young, the very old and persons with disabilities.

Making a difference in these key arenas during the 83rd Texas Legislative Session was facilitated by my committee assignments: I serve as Chair of the Government Organization Committee; Co-Vice Chair of the Legislative Oversight Committee on Higher Education Governance, Excellence and Transparency; and as a member of the Legislative Budget Board and of the Senate Committees on Finance, Higher Education, Redistricting, Health and Human Services and Administration.

Longfellow also said, “Perseverance is a great element of success.” During the 83rd Session we persevered in restoring some of the funding that was cut from higher and public education and health and human services in 2011. What’s more, we worked collaboratively to pass important legislation preserving college financial aid programs, improving financial literacy education, enhancing state contracting and cyber-security to protect taxpayers and promoting independence for persons with disabilities and safeguarding them from abuse and neglect.



“Perseverance, preparation and collaboration continue to be the keys to our success.”

– Senator Judith Zaffirini

Accordingly, each year it is my pleasure to distribute *Senator Judith Zaffirini Reports to the Families of District 21*, a newsletter that is not only a progress report, but also a challenge to work collaboratively to build stronger communities.

Because I cast every vote by balancing the needs and interests of SD 21 families with those of our great state, your feedback is critical. It is important that I hear from you, especially as constituents historically have suggested some of my best legislation. As always, we will continue to maintain our open door policy and respond to every letter, email and telephone call.

My prayer is that the Lord will inspire us to forge a better future for our children and grandchildren and bless all Texans with health and happiness, peace and harmony and love and joy.

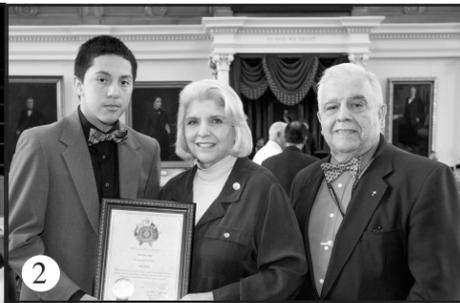
Judith Zaffirini

Judith Zaffirini
State Senator, District 21
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I am incredibly thankful for the countless constituents, advocates, students and local leaders who wrote letters, sent emails, made telephone calls, provided testimony or visited the Texas Capitol to share your important perspectives. Your participation truly makes a difference.

Along with perseverance, preparation and collaboration continue to be the keys to our success. Accordingly, my staff and I already are working with constituents, colleagues and stakeholders to develop new legislation that addresses important SD 21 priorities. When the next legislative session convenes in January, 2015, we will be ready.

Effective communication enhances our success.



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SENATOR JUDITH ZAFFIRINI welcomes constituents to the Texas Capitol, including in photograph 1. volunteer firefighters from Guadalupe County and retired teachers from San Patricio County; 2. Christopher Barba and his grandfather, Steve Gamboa of Travis County; and 3. Marian Meraz, a student at Rio Grande City's Ringgold Middle School in Starr County.



Zaffirini Links Higher Ed Transparency, Excellence

"Expanding access to higher education is my passion," said Senator Judith Zaffirini, a member of the Senate Higher Education Committee.

The senator's accomplishments during the 83rd legislative session included authoring and passing Senate Bill (SB) 31, which improves students' likelihood of timely graduation by encouraging them to enroll in dual credit courses that transfer to two- and four-year colleges and universities.

Senator Zaffirini also authored and passed SB 1604, which enhances higher education asset management,

thereby improving efficiency. The bill facilitated The University of Texas System purchasing land to hasten the merger of The University of Texas-Brownsville and The University of Texas-Pan American. A member of the Valley delegation, she co-authored the legislation creating the new university and medical school.

SB 1525, also authored and passed by Senator Zaffirini, requires disability awareness training for student organizations at colleges and universities.

What's more, her SB 1590 improves financial literacy education at

higher education institutions. "Students who learn financial literacy skills are better prepared for success," she said.

A champion of financial aid, Senator Zaffirini also crafted reforms ensuring the viability of the B-On-Time Loan program.

During the 83rd session she again filed legislation authorizing tuition revenue bonds (TRBs) that would allow institutions of higher education to construct and renovate academic buildings necessary to educate Texas' rapidly growing population. She worked relentlessly during three special sessions with higher education stakeholders, and their effort culminated in Senator Zaffirini's SB 10, which 21 senators co-authored. Though TRB legislation was not added to the call during the special sessions, she plans to file it anew in 2015.

She also is Co-Vice Chair of the Joint Oversight Committee on Higher Education Governance, Excellence and Transparency, which examines university governance structure and provides a venue for stakeholders to develop policies to improve our colleges and universities.

"Transparency and accountability must be linked with excellence and success," the senator said.

In 2013 she sponsored and passed legislation requiring the governing boards of higher education institutions to broadcast on the Internet all open meetings and to post online documents provided for the meetings.

public school funding by \$3.8 billion. Enrollment at higher education institutions continued to climb, and legislators appropriated an additional \$668 million in funds to educate these students.

Much of the growth in the Texas economy can be attributed to the development of the Eagle Ford Shale oil and gas play. Oil and gas severance tax revenues have fueled growth in the state's Rainy Day Fund, which, pending voter approval of constitutional amendments, will be used to provide \$2 billion to fund the State Water Plan and \$1.2 billion annually for statewide transportation projects.

"We must invest in vital infrastructure, including education, water and transportation, to ensure our state's prosperity," Senator Zaffirini said.

Improved Budget Funds Key Services

After education, health care and other critical state services were reduced drastically in 2011 as a result of the national economic downturn, Texas' strong economic recovery allowed the state to reinvest in our highest priorities.

"The rebounding economy provides a firm footing that will ensure our rapidly growing needs can be addressed moving forward," said Senator Judith Zaffirini, a member of the Senate Finance Committee and the Legislative Budget Board. "Texas' population increases by approximately 500,000 persons every year, an average of more than 1,300 persons per day!"

To address the 2011 budget cuts and provide for the more than 80,000 new public school students who enroll each year, in 2013 the Legislature increased

Lt. Governor Dewhurst: "American Dream" Now "Texas Miracle"

By Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst

The 83rd session of the Texas Legislature may have ended back on Memorial Day, May 27, but the work we accomplished will continue to ensure that Texas leads the nation. It's no accident that the "American Dream" has become the "Texas Miracle" during my time as Lieutenant Governor. We've worked hard to empower the individual while limiting government, and it has helped Texas become the #1 job creator in the country. This year's legislative session continued that effort and will make Texas even stronger.

Even before the session began in January, it was clear that we were facing serious problems with the drought, with our education system, and with the slow national recovery. However, as Texans do, we rolled up our sleeves, got to work, and faced these problems head on. In just 140 short days, we:

- Passed \$1.3 billion in tax cuts, which included a reform of the state's franchise tax;
- Slashed the research and development tax by \$250 million to promote good-paying and high-technology manufacturing jobs;
- Eliminated the System Benefit Fund fee, which will save consumers approximately \$150 million each year;
- Created a \$2 billion revolving fund to finance water projects across the state; and,
- Ended "teaching to the test," which will allow teachers to better prepare our children and ensure that they are either college or career ready when they graduate.



"Texas is the place where every day, anybody from any background or community can scale heights as improbable as they are breathtaking."

– Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst

South Texas is vital to the economy of Texas and our legislative efforts will help keep it that way. While our state is benefiting through the Eagle Ford Shale boom in terms of new jobs, increased revenues and increasing energy independence, we're working hard to manage the accompanying challenges like water supply, road improvements and workforce quality. This session's accomplishments will directly improve those areas.

In November 2013 Texas voters will have the chance to make a differ-

ence by approving a revolving fund that will provide loans for new water projects. Additionally, the Texas Legislature worked overtime in a special session to fund new and improved roads across the state. Whether a person is going to work, church, home or hospital, time spent in traffic is time wasted, so we'll need your support in the fall of 2014 to vote for road funding. Together, we'll keep Texans moving.

As a product of Texas public schools, I understand the value of that education. By passing HB 5, we have greatly reduced the number of stressful exams a student must take from 15 to 5, ending the practice of "teaching to the test." These reforms not only give more authority to our teachers, but they also ensure that every student will be equipped with the tools and knowledge they need to compete in today's economy.

My focus has been to help families succeed and thrive, and the legislation from this session will do exactly that. The improvements we made could not have happened without your involvement, from letting us know your concerns with phone calls and, more importantly, sending us legis-

lators who know how to put the needs of our state ahead of their own desires. You should be proud of the job Senator Judith Zaffirini has done in Austin, with her tireless advocacy for your community and the economic aspirations of South Texas. Working together, we're creating opportunities as big as Texas for generations to come.

Texas Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst, R-Houston, is president of the 31-member Texas Senate, a position he has held since January, 2003.

Senator Judith Zaffirini Promotes Independence, Quality Health Services for All Texans

Senator Judith Zaffirini believes that quality health and human services should be accessible for all Texans, especially the very old, the very young and persons with disabilities. A member of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee since 1987, she continued her career-long advocacy in the health arena during the 83rd Texas Legislative Session.

Protecting Persons With Disabilities

A champion for persons with disabilities, in 2013 Senator Zaffirini authored and passed legislation guarding residents of state-supported living centers from abuse and neglect.

Another of her bills protects patients' rights by narrowing the circumstances during which medical personnel may override a patient's refusal of psychoactive medication.

"The state has no higher responsibility than to ensure the safety and protect the rights of those in its care," she said.

Promoting Independence

Senator Zaffirini also authored and passed Senate Bill (SB) 45 and SB 1226, which help persons with disabilities become productive members of the workforce.

"Research confirms that the majority of persons with disabilities want to have a job, but their rate of workforce participation is low," Senator Zaffirini said. "My legislation improves employment assistance and establishes a state policy that competitive employment at a living wage in the general workforce is the first and preferred outcome of publicly funded services for all working-age Texans with disabilities."

Enhancing educational opportunities for students with disabilities also was among Senator Zaffirini's priorities. She authored SB 39 and sponsored House Bill (HB) 590 by Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin, both of which benefit public school students with visual impairments.

"State law requires that students with visual impairments receive specialized instruction that is specific to their needs," she said. "Our legislation helps ensure these students receive that critical orientation and mobility services that will help them live independently and become successful members of the workforce."

Keeping Families Together

SB 44 by Senator Zaffirini helps parents who previously had to make the difficult decision to give up custody of a child to allow him or her to receive quality mental health and behavioral services. Specifically, the bill would prevent these parents from being placed automatically on the state's abuse and neglect registry, which can affect their ability to find employment.

"Relinquishing custody to help a child obtain mental health services would be a heart-wrenching decision for any parent," the senator said. "Needlessly placing them on the state's abuse and neglect registry only adds insult to injury."

Senator Zaffirini's SB 50 changes the composition of the Children's Policy Council (CPC) to ensure families of children with

emotional disturbances and other behavioral conditions are represented in the policy-making process.

"Understanding the experience of family members is critical to ensuring that the CPC addresses the many unmet needs of this underserved population of children," the senator said.

What's more, her SB 421 gives the Texas System of Care Consortium responsibility for Texas' system of care planning, promotion and implementation activities. The consortium promotes community-based support systems for children and their families.

Giving the Gift of Life

Continuing her multi-session effort to improve Texas' organ donation registry, Senator Zaffirini authored and passed SB 1815, which allows donated funds to go directly to the Glenda Dawson Donate Life-Texas Registry, ensuring they are used more cost-effectively to increase organ donation.

In 2005 Senator Zaffirini collaborated with the late Rep. Glenda Dawson, R-Pearland, to create the registry. After Rep. Dawson, an organ recipient, died in 2006, the senator authored and passed the legislation naming it in her memory.

"Every year thousands of Texans register as organ and tissue donors via www.DonateLifeTexas.org," said Senator Zaffirini, a registered organ donor. "No gift is greater than the gift of life."

Securing Funding for Services

A member of the Senate Finance Committee and the Legislative Budget Board, Senator Zaffirini successfully championed funding critical health and human services in the state budget during the 83rd legislative session.

SB 1, the state budget, invests \$226 million in mental health and substance abuse treatment and eliminates the waiting list for mental health services.

"I am delighted that we restored funding for many critical services," the senator said. "There is still more to be done, however, especially in reducing or eliminating other waiting lists and in improving wages for personal care attendants."

Focusing on Mental Health, Patient Protection

In 2013 Senator Zaffirini authored and passed Senate Resolution 554, recognizing Mental Health America of Texas and the significance of the Mental Health Bell of Hope, a 300-lb memorial that advocates brought to the Texas Capitol for the occasion. Cast from the chains and shackles discarded by asylums throughout the United States, the bell rings out hope for persons with mental illness.

"The bell is not only a symbol of our great progress in addressing mental illness, but also a call to action and a reminder of how much we have yet to achieve," she said. "Persons with mental illness continue to experience discrimination and face barriers to receiving quality health care."

Senator Zaffirini knows that persistence is the key to success. Accordingly, she plans to improve and re-file some of her bills that did not pass in 2013. A series of her bills, for example, would have updated Texas' Mental Health code to provide for more efficient allocation of state resources and help families and stakeholders navigate the civil commitment process.

"There have been great advances and changes in the mental health field since 1985, when our state's mental health laws were last revised substantially," the senator said. "Accordingly, the code should be updated to reflect that significant progress."

She also plans to re-file her SB 419, which would have required all state health and human services agencies to use a centralized database to track and prevent cases of abuse and neglect. What's more, it would have required that all employees, including professionals, be included in the Employee Misconduct Registry if there is a confirmed finding of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

"This bill would improve coordination between health and human services agencies, thereby preventing abuse and neglect at Texas' state hospitals and state-supported living centers," Senator Zaffirini said.

Improving Medicaid Managed Care

Texas Health and Human Services agencies are beginning to implement Medicaid reforms that aim to improve Texas' system for providing health care and long-term services and supports for thousands of Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Though the first changes occur in September, 2013, the full redesign will roll out gradually until 2020.

"Count on me to collaborate with stakeholders and state agencies to ensure these changes are implemented efficiently and in the least disruptive manner possible," Senator Zaffirini said.



CALDWELL COUNTY RESIDENTS Nancy Jackson and Peggy Washington meet with Senator Judith Zaffirini at a community event at the historic Zedler Mill in Luling.



DUVAL COUNTY RANCHERS Leopoldo Serna Sr. and Jr. join Senator Judith Zaffirini at a Capitol ceremony honoring their ranch for more than 100 years of continuous operation.



AT THE CAPITOL and throughout SD 21, Senator Judith Zaffirini prioritizes collaborating with local leaders and constituents. They include in photograph 1. William Herbst, Atascosa County; 2. Hays County physician Dr. Vip Mangalick; 3. Bexar County Commissioner Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez; 4. McMullen County Attorney Kimberly Kreider-Dusek; 5. Iraq and Afghanistan veteran Marine Staff Sgt. Mark Juarez, Wilson County; 6. Live Oak County resident Shelley Liska and her son, Hunter, Live Oak County; and 7. Jim Hogg County leader Juan Carlos Guerra.



THE BEST IDEAS FOR LEGISLATION often come from Senator Judith Zaffirini's constituents. She is shown in photograph 1. with Renato Ramirez and George Goodwin of Zapata County and in 2. with La Salle County Sheriff Miguel Rodríguez and Justice of the Peace Vicki Rodríguez.

Eagle Ford Caucus Addresses Shale Issues

Because of continued rapid development in the Eagle Ford Shale, Senator Judith Zaffirini and 27 other legislators who represent shale counties founded the Eagle Ford Shale Legislative Caucus, envisioning it as a means for lawmakers to address issues related to oil and gas production in their districts and throughout the state. The caucus focuses on short- and long-term solutions to the impacts of the shale on transportation, education, public safety, housing, environment and other areas.

"The Eagle Ford Shale is having a tremendous impact on Texas' economy," said Senator Zaffirini, an organizer of the caucus, which in 2013 included

9 senators and 19 representatives. "What's more, tax revenue generated because of shale development has improved the state's financial situation."

Establishing the caucus was suggested by one of Senator Zaffirini's constituents at a town hall meeting. Because the majority of production, the majority of rigs and the highest-producing counties are in her district, she took action immediately.

During the 83rd Texas Legislative Session, she authored a legislative package regarding a wide variety of issues related to the Eagle Ford Shale, including securing funding for transportation projects [Senate Bill (SB) 1778]; ensur-

ing that counties are able to maximize hotel-motel tax funding (SB 1783); creating a South Texas Natural Gas Triangle and promoting the use of cleaner, more environmentally-friendly vehicles fueled by Texas natural gas (SB 1781); funding rural hospitals and clinics that have been overwhelmed by new patients (SB1780); and protecting landowners' private property rights (SB1784).

"As development in the shale continues, we must manage our natural resources responsibly," said Senator Zaffirini, who applauded the passage in 2013 of House Bill (HB) 4, a measure that with voter approval will invest \$2 billion in important projects in the State Water Plan.

"We also must continue to support funding for transportation projects that enhance commerce and safety," she said.

The volume of traffic in the Eagle Ford Shale has increased dramatically, as has the number of traffic accidents. In McMullen County accidents increased by 300 percent since 2008, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

In 2013 legislators appropriated \$450 million for shale-impacted county and state roadways.

"This funding is a start, but it is nowhere near enough to meet the need," said Senator Zaffirini.

Her SB 1778 would have directed a percentage of severance taxes on oil and gas production to facilitate transportation infrastructure projects in shale regions. Though that bill was not passed, the idea later was used to fund statewide transportation projects, pending voter approval of a constitutional amendment in 2014.

that have become important housing and service centers for energy industry employees. The senator's SB 1041 authorizes Bee County to impose a hotel occupancy tax, thereby generating revenue for a convention center and creating a model for other communities.

What's more, her SB 985 allows cities to hire brokers to sell city-owned land, thereby aiding economic development by enabling communities to develop potentially profitable tracts.

Stakeholder participation was key to her passing SB 1532, which facilitates a pilot project to desalinate and recycle water from the Edwards Aquifer.

"We need to consider seriously whether desalination could augment our water supply," she said. "This project could lead the way for many Texas communities."

Zaffirini: Local Bills Top Priority

One of the hallmarks of Senator Judith Zaffirini's success in the Texas Senate is her commitment to addressing the specific priorities of Senate District (SD) 21 communities. Of the 70 bills she passed during the 83rd Legislative Session, 25 addressed local issues.

"Our communities' needs are as diverse as our district, which includes not only fast-growing cities, but also rural counties impacted by development in the Eagle Ford Shale," she said. "Working collaboratively with local leaders is critical."

Providing services to unincorporated and newly annexed areas is a serious concern for SD 21 communities. Senator Zaffirini's Senate Bill (SB) 1596 helps ensure that annexations do not lead to a lower level of emergency services.

Hotel occupancy rates have risen dramatically in many communities

New Photo ID Requirements Impact Texas Voters

Senator Judith Zaffirini believes strongly that civic participation is essential to improving quality of life for Texans. Accordingly, she encourages her constituents to register and to exercise their right to vote.

After a 5-4 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court struck down part of the Voting Rights Act, implementation of Texas' controversial Voter ID law moved forward. Though lawsuits filed by the federal government and others to overturn it are pending, the law requires Texans to present one of the following forms of photo identification to vote:

- Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS
- United States military identification card containing the person's photograph
- United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- United States passport

"It is critical that voters obtain the necessary identification as soon as possible," Senator Zaffirini said. "If you do not have a proper form of identification, you may not be able to vote."

Texas voters without another form of photo ID can find information about how to obtain a voter identification certificate via www.dps.texas.gov.

"It is important to try to ensure that the name on your voter registration matches exactly the name on your photo ID," the senator said. "Voters whose names do not match may have difficulty at the polls."

SD 21 constituents can obtain voter registration applications from their County Voter Registrar or at drivers' license offices and many libraries, schools and post offices.

Government Organization Chair Zaffirini Enhances State Contracting, Cybersecurity

As Chair of the Senate Government Organization Committee, in 2013 Senator Judith Zaffirini continued her multi-session effort to improve oversight and efficiency in state contracting.

"Texas state agencies and higher education institutions manage thousands of contracts valued cumulatively at more than \$100 billion," she said. "Proper oversight and transparency in state contracting is critical, especially because so much taxpayer money is at stake."

Poor management of some contracts results in inadequate delivery of goods and services and costs taxpayers millions of dollars each biennium. Accordingly, Senator Zaffirini authored and passed Senate Bill (SB) 1681, which enhances contract oversight by requiring the comptroller to develop training programs for contract managers; consult with state agencies in developing forms, contract terms and

criteria; establish a uniform evaluation process; and track vendor performance.

"State contracts must be monitored closely," she said. "Proper oversight helps mitigate risk, contain costs and ensure quality and efficiency."

The senator has introduced legislation to improve state contracting practices each legislative session since 2005. This year she also authored several bills promoting greater uniformity in state contracts by standardizing contract management practices and improving agency procurement.

Senator Zaffirini also focused on improving Texas' cybersecurity initiatives. She authored and passed SB 1597, directing each state agency to develop a plan that addresses vulnerabilities and improves information security.

"We must always be vigilant in preventing unauthorized access to data and personal information," Senator Zaffirini said.



EVERY COMMUNITY IN SD 21 is important to Senator Judith Zaffirini. She is shown ABOVE with (L-R) Beville Mayor Jimmy Martinez Jr. and city leaders John Govella Fulghum and Wil Galloway and BELOW with historian and former Karnes County Judge Robert Thonhoff.



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Senator Zaffirini Casts 50,000th Consecutive Vote

During the 83rd Texas Legislative Session Senator Judith Zaffirini extended her unique, career-long 100-percent voting record by casting her 50,000th consecutive vote in the Texas Senate.

To celebrate the nationally inimitable milestone, the Texas Senate presented her with a commemorative gavel and passed Senate Resolution 973 authored by Senator Kevin Eltife, R-Tyler, and co-authored by all other senators.

“Each vote I cast in the Texas Senate reflects my commitment to balancing the needs and interests of Senate District 21 families with those of our great state,” Senator Zaffirini said. “I

am grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of Texans.”

Senator Zaffirini’s legendary work ethic also is reflected in her 100 percent perfect attendance in the Texas Senate since 1987, except for breaking quorum deliberately in 2003 to prevent an untimely redistricting. She has passed 795 bills and has received more than 740 awards and honors for her legislative, public service and professional work, including more than 200 in communication.

Texas colleges and universities have recognized Senator Zaffirini for her longstanding commitment to improving higher education. In 2012

Texas A&M International University in Laredo celebrated the dedication of its Senator Judith Zaffirini Student Success Center, and in 2013 The University of Texas at Austin honored the senator with the Presidential Citation, the university’s equivalent of an Honorary Degree. She holds B.S., M.A. and PhD degrees from UT-Austin, each with a 3.9 grade-point average, and was named a Distinguished Alumna by the Texas Exes.

A champion for health and human services, Senator Zaffirini was named the Texas Public Health Association’s 2013 Legislator of the Year. She also

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was named the Texas Transit Association’s Legislator of the Year in 2012, and in 2012 the Boys and Girls Clubs of America named her to its National Alumni Hall of Fame.

In 2011 *Texas Monthly* named Senator Zaffirini to its list of “10 Best Legislators” for the fourth time, and in 2009 the magazine noted her tenacity in championing the interests of her constituents: “No one works harder. No one is more organized. No one is more relentless.”



EXCELLENCE IS THE HALLMARK of Senator Judith Zaffirini’s public service. Chair of the Senate Government Organization Committee, she also is a member of the Legislative Budget Board and the Higher Education, Finance, Redistricting, Administration and Health and Human Services committees. Her husband, Carlos Sr., and their son, Carlos Jr., join her at the Senator Judith Zaffirini Student Success Center at Texas A&M International University.

The first Hispanic woman elected to the Texas Senate, Senator Zaffirini is featured in 24 books and referenced in 16. Her story is told in *If Judy Pappas Can Do It, Anybody Can!*, her book for students at Senator Judith Zaffirini Elementary School in Laredo.

A lector at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, she and her husband, Carlos Sr., have been married for more than 48 years. Their son, Carlos Jr., is an attorney and businessman.