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DONNA CAMPBELL, MD
DISTRICT 25

District 25 Counties:

Bexar (part)
Comal
Guadalupe
Hays
Kendall
Travis (part)

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**Senator Campbell Files First Bills of 84th Legislative Session
to Protect Religious Freedom, Stop Ballot Fraud**

AUSTIN-- Just days after winning reelection to the Texas Senate, State Senator Donna Campbell wasted no time backing up her promise to defend the constitutional rights of Texans with her first bills of the 84th Legislature. The legislation, filed Monday, seeks to increase protection for religious expression and ensure the right to vote in fair and honest elections by increasing penalties for ballot theft.

"Standing up for Texas values requires a firm commitment to free speech, religious liberty, and integrity at the ballot box. Defending our Constitution is among the most sacred responsibilities of lawmakers, and I am proud to make it one of my top priorities for the upcoming legislative session," Senator Campbell said.

The Restoring Religious Freedom Amendment reflects a swift and measured response after controversy erupted in Houston last month when the City attempted to subpoena pastors' sermons. Those subpoenas stirred protest from Texas churches and elicited strongly worded [statements from Governor-Elect Greg Abbott](#), Attorney General-Elect Ken Paxton, and Senator Campbell.

"The resolution I filed today provides a necessary layer of protection from overreaching governments that engage in acts of prejudice meant to intimidate Texans of faith from expressing their deeply-held religious beliefs," Senator Campbell said. "Fifteen other states have adopted similar language in their constitutions, and Texans should be afforded the same guaranteed protection of liberty."

Likewise, another issue that has garnered media attention has been the theft of absentee ballots, which Project Veritas recently investigated and demonstrated how easily mail-in ballots could be illegally confiscated or poached.

"Voter ID Laws provide some protection against voter fraud, but they are only part of the solution," Senator Campbell stated. "As more Texans choose to vote by mail, we must take strong action to protect the vote and punish those who try to undercut the democratic process by disenfranchising voters."

SB 120 would raise the offense of fraud through ballot theft to a third degree felony and impose a mandatory penalty of 2 to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$10,000. Senator Campbell filed a similar bill last session which passed through the Senate, but failed to come up for a vote in the Texas House.

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Senator Donna Campbell is a practicing emergency room physician representing Senate District 25, which includes all or parts of Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays, Kendall, and Travis Counties. She defeated incumbent Jeff Wentworth two years ago to win her first term in the Senate and won an overwhelming victory for a second term starting in 2015.