



January 13, 2018

Greetings,

This week, I introduced the Veterans, Employees, and Taxpayers (VET) Protection Act to address a troubling report from the Government Accountability Office concerning the abuse of official time practices and union activities by employees at the VA. This bill would ensure that union activity at the VA is not subsidized by taxpayers, and more importantly, does not undermine the service and care of our brave veterans. No veteran should have to wait to receive the services they courageously earned while VA employees participate in union activities at work.

I was proud to introduce the Visa Transparency Anti-Trafficking Act with my colleague Senator Richard Blumenthal. This bipartisan bill seeks to prevent human trafficking by bringing more transparency to the foreign temporary worker visa process. According to a study conducted by the University of Texas at Austin, it is estimated that there are over 300,000 victims of human trafficking in Texas alone, many of whom are young children. And that number is by no means comprehensive. By shining a light on the scourge of human trafficking abuses within our nonimmigrant visa program, I am hopeful this bill will empower law enforcement to better identify potential victims and bring predatory employers and traffickers to justice.

On Friday, I was grateful to join Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner to discuss our shared priorities for Hurricane Harvey recovery. There, I reminded Texans of the provisions included in the Cruz-Cornyn-Rubio tax relief legislation signed into law by President Trump, which will directly help victims and small businesses impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. I am committed to ensuring no Texan is left behind, and that our state is equipped with the resources we need to rebuild.

My Senate office continues to work to ensure swift and effective service to Texans and Texas communities in need of federal assistance following the storm. If you need additional information or assistance during the recovery and rebuilding process, please do not hesitate to contact my office or utilize the federal and state resources listed [here](#).

Please read below for an update from this last week.

Keep Texas Strong,

Ted Cruz

Sen. Cruz: Middle Class Families Deserve Permanent Tax Cuts

Sen. Cruz introduced a bill to ensure the historic tax cuts on individuals are permanent. [Read more...](#)

Sen. Cruz: The VA Must Prioritize Veteran Services First

Sen. Cruz introduced the Veterans, Employees, and Taxpayers (VET) Protection Act of 2017, which would ensure union activity does not undermine the service and care of our veterans and is not subsidized by taxpayers. [Read more...](#)

Cruz, Cornyn Praise Confirmation of Judge Walter Counts for Western District of Texas

Sens. Cruz and John Cornyn (R-Texas) released the following statements after the U.S. Senate confirmed Walter David Counts, III as U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas. [Read more...](#)

Cruz, Blumenthal Introduce Bipartisan, Bicameral Bill to Bring Transparency to Temporary Worker Visa Programs & Combat Human Trafficking

On National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, Sens. Cruz and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), and U.S. Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL) introduced the bipartisan Visa Transparency Anti-Trafficking Act. [Read more...](#)

Sen. Cruz Votes to Begin Debate on FISA Reauthorization

Sen. Cruz issued the following statement regarding his vote to begin debate on the reauthorization of Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). [Read more...](#)

Sen. Cruz: Tax Relief is Crucial to Texas' Recovery

Sen. Cruz joined Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner for a press conference. [Read more...](#)



Sen. Cruz: Rev. King Championed the American Creed

Sen. Cruz issued the following statement commemorating the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. in advance of Monday's holiday. [Read more...](#)



Sen. Cruz: We Must Prevent a Nuclear-Armed Islamic Regime and Promote the Will of the Iranian People

Sen. Cruz released the following statement in response to the Administration's announcement on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). [Read more...](#)

Press Conference in Houston with Mayor Turner



The full press releases may be viewed [here](#).

Central Texas Office

300 E. 8th St,
Suite #961
Austin, TX 78701
Phone: (512) 916-5834

North Texas Office

Lee Park Tower II,
3626 N. Hall St., Suite #410
Dallas, TX 75219
Phone: (214) 599-8749

Southeast Texas Office

808 Travis St.,
Suite #1420
Houston, TX 77002
Phone: (713) 718-3057

South/Central Texas Office

9901 IH-10W,
Suite # 950
San Antonio, TX 78230
Phone: (210) 340-2885

East Texas Office

305 S. Broadway,
Suite 501
Tyler, TX 75702
Phone: (903) 593-5130

South Texas Office

200 S. 10th St,
Suite 1603
McAllen, TX 78501
Phone: (956) 686-7339

Washington Office

404 Russell Senate Office
Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-5922



cruz.senate.gov

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