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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



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Kirk Watson

Texas Senator, SD-014 (D)

freedomindex.us/11285/



TX Legislative Scorecard 2019: 17%

✓ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional — Did not Vote **Vote**

1. Prohibiting Religious Discrimination: SB17 ensures that employers cannot discriminate based on religious beliefs. This bill would also ensure employees cannot be fired for statements they make about their own beliefs.



Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **No** · SB17 · 04/03/2019

2. Clear Language on Taxes: Would ensure that ballot propositions must be written with clear language describing the tax increases that would come with them.



Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **No** · SB462 · 04/16/2019

3. Banning Traffic Cameras: Would ensure that your privacy on the road is better protected, and makes sure that traffic enforcement will be done by officers.



Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · HB1631 · 06/02/2019

4. 2nd Amendment in Churches: Would allow the Second Amendment to be used in Churches and places of worship. People would be able to carry and protect their congregation with approval from their Church leadership.



Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **No** · SB535 · 06/07/2019

5. SNAP produce purchases: Would create an incentive encouraging people on the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to purchase fruits and vegetables grown in the state of Texas.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · SB1834 · 04/25/2019

6. Healthcare Overreach: Would add additional healthcare coverage and cost by adding mammography to certain health plans.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · HB170 · 05/22/2019

Why do these votes matter?

1. Prohibiting Religious Discrimination

SB17 ensures that employers cannot discriminate based on religious beliefs. This bill would also ensure employees cannot be fired for statements they make about their own beliefs.

The Texas State Senate passed SB17 on April 3, 2019 by a vote of 19 to 12. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because religious discrimination against Christians is increasing, and this bill will help prevent that. U.S. President John Adams wrote, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People," and attacks on Christianity and discrimination based on religious beliefs are not proper.

2. Clear Language on Taxes

SB462 would ensure that language in ballot propositions that would raise taxes are clear about the cost increases that residents would have brought upon them.

The Texas State Senate passed SB462 on April 16, 2019 by a vote of 19 to 12. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill will help ensure people know what they are voting for. Too often, we see resolutions confusingly written that will increase taxes and have other deleterious effects. SB462 would ensure taxpayers know what they are signing up for when voting on resolutions.

3. Banning Traffic Cameras

HB1631 would prohibit photographic traffic signal enforcement systems from operating or being used by law enforcement.

The Texas State Senate passed HB1631 on May 17, 2019 by a vote of 26 to 5. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill would protect the privacy rights of Texas citizens and rein in governmental surveillance. Increasingly, privacy is being stripped away from citizens in the name of safety, but this is not what the Founders wanted for our nation.

4. 2nd Amendment in Churches

SB535 would allow churchgoers and attendees to carry rifles into churches, for protection in case of attacks or other dire situations.

The Texas State Senate passed SB535 on May 1, 2019 by a vote of 25 to 6. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill would bring us closer to compliance with the U.S. Constitution. The Second Amendment states that "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." This principle holds true in places of worship as well.

5. SNAP produce purchases

SB1834 would create an incentive encouraging people on the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to purchase fruits and vegetables grown in the state of Texas.

The Texas State Senate passed SB1834 by a vote of 26 to 4 on April 25, 2019. We have assigned pluses to the nays as this bill increases government interference in the economy, resulting in SNAP participants purchasing fruits and vegetables that could be found cheaper elsewhere. We believe that this bill also violates the free market principles that helped our nation grow, and gives an unfair leg up to Texas producers. Finally, the SNAP program is itself an unconstitutional expansion of the federal government's scope.

6. Healthcare Overreach

HB170 would add more healthcare coverage and costs to the average person by adding coverage for mammography.

The Texas State Senate passed HB170 on May 22, 2019 by a vote of 26 to 5. We have assigned pluses to the nays as this is an overreach by the government. Government should not interfere in healthcare or the free market. The Declaration of Independence states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." Government interference is in direct conflict with that belief.