

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



PAT FALLON  
DISTRICT 106

November 14, 2013

Dr. Jeremy Lyon  
Frisco ISD  
5515 Ohio Drive  
Frisco, Texas 75035

Dear Dr. Lyon:

Thank you for your service to the families of the Frisco Independent School District and our community!

The reason for my letter today is to let you know about one of the best new laws that came out of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session. On June 14<sup>th</sup> of this year, House Bill 308 (nicknamed "The Merry Christmas Bill") was signed into law by Governor Rick Perry and became effective immediately.

This law clarifies and codifies the fact that students and district staff are permitted to discuss winter holidays as they please, including using the terms "Merry Christmas," "Happy Hanukkah," or "happy holidays," among others, as greetings. The district may also display scenes or symbols associated with traditional winter holidays (e.g. nativity scenes, Christmas trees, menorahs, etc.).

Recently, a concerned mother and House District 106 resident contacted my office to indicate that her child's PTA set the following "Winter Party Rules" for an upcoming event: "1) No reference to Christmas or any other religious holiday, 2) no red/green or Christmas trees." This information is a direct quote from the original PTA email, which was forwarded to my attention to view.

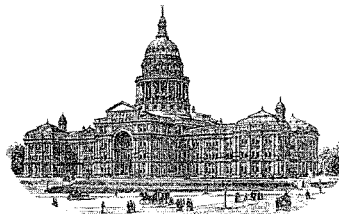
Please note that such restrictions are unnecessary, inappropriate, and quite frankly draconian in nature. Texas law clearly permits Christmas-themed celebrations, events, and displays. If there is any way that I can assist you in making the staff, students, and parents of the district aware of this new law, please don't hesitate to contact me. You can reach me on my cell phone at (214) 507-4861.

Again, thank you for your service, enjoy the Holidays, and have a very Merry Christmas!

For Texas and Liberty,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Fallon".

Pat Fallon, Member  
Texas House of Representatives  
Denton County



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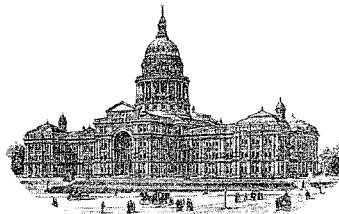
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