

THE STATE OF TEXAS



RICHARD PEÑA RAYMOND

DISTRICT 42~LAREDO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 10, 2010

Contact: (512) 463-0558

Tax-Free Food, Drinks, Medicine, and Child-Care Services

~Files Legislation to Protect Texas Families ~

LAREDO--Rep. Richard Peña Raymond (D-Laredo) filed **HJR 36** to protect Texans from higher taxes. The constitutional amendment prohibits the legislature from taxing certain food, drinks, medicine, or child-care services.

"These are difficult times and Texas families across the state are facing increasing financial hardships. Most foods and medicines are not taxed -- and I want to keep it that way," said Rep. Raymond. Rep. Raymond added that currently certain foods, bottled water, over the counter medicines, and day care services are exempt from taxation under the tax code. These exemptions are not constitutionally mandated. Each session, Texans face the possibility of being required to pay taxes on indispensable items that their families require to live. "My bill would allow Texans to vote on prohibiting a tax on such things as food and medicine," said Rep. Raymond.

HJR 36 by Rep. Raymond provides that the Texas State Legislature may not tax any food, drink, medicine, or child-care service that are not being taxed already. This constitutional amendment is designed to protect Texas families from paying additional taxes on basic necessities.

"With this constitutional amendment, Texans will continue to save thousands of dollars per year on items that they need to survive. I intend to ask every legislator to sign on to this bill as a co-sponsor. I hope we can agree to take these taxes off the table for good." said Rep. Raymond

The 82nd Legislature will begin considering bills on January 11, 2011.

###