



SENATOR CHARLES SCHWERTNER, MD

SENATE DISTRICT 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Schwertner Named to Texas Sunset Commission

AUSTIN, TX – Late yesterday, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst appointed Senator Charles Schwertner, MD (R-Georgetown) to serve as a member of the Texas Sunset Commission. Dewhurst also announced the appointment of Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen) and Senator Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound). All three Senators will serve a four-year term from 2013-2017.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to serve as a member of the Texas Sunset Commission and I look forward to a thorough examination of these state agencies to ensure our tax dollars are protected and our state government is running as efficiently as possible," Schwertner said.

The Sunset Advisory Commission was established by the Texas Legislature in 1977 and is made up of 12 members (5 state senators, 5 state representatives, and 2 public members). The Sunset Commission is charged with providing a comprehensive periodic review of the operation of more than 150 state agencies, with each agency typically subject to Sunset review every 12 years.

"The Sunset Commission is an essential part of our state's commitment to efficiency and accountability," said Lt. Governor Dewhurst. "I appreciate each of these leaders' willingness to take part in the ongoing review of state agencies to ensure they're providing the best possible service to Texas taxpayers. It's a demanding role, but I'm confident they will make state government better in the process."

Among the agencies scheduled for review during the 2014-15 cycle: the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), and the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH).

"As the Sunset Commission begins its evaluation of our state's health-related agencies, I also look forward to using my firsthand experience as a physician to help preserve the all-important doctor-patient relationship, help Texas resist the negative effects of Obamacare, and provide much-needed reform to our state's ailing and overburdened Medicaid system," Schwertner added. "Medicaid is fundamentally broken, and without substantial reform, it will continue to consume a greater and greater portion of our state budget, crowding out other priorities like public education and transportation. I welcome the challenge and look forward to getting to work."

In 2012, Dr. Charles Schwertner was first elected to serve the citizens of Senate District 5, a ten-county region of central and east Texas which includes Brazos, Freestone, Grimes, Leon, Limestone, Madison, Milam, Robertson, Walker and Williamson counties. In addition to his role in the Texas Legislature, Dr. Schwertner also serves as a practicing orthopedic surgeon in the Georgetown area. He and his wife Belinda, an obstetrician/gynecologist, live in Georgetown with their three sons: Carson, Zachary, and Matthew.

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