



SENATOR CHARLES SCHWERTNER, MD

SENATE DISTRICT 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2014

Contact: Tom Holloway

(512) 923-5944

Senator Charles Schwertner named Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

AUSTIN, TX – In a televised interview late yesterday, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst announced that he had selected State Senator Charles Schwertner, MD (R-Georgetown) to serve as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. Schwertner was also appointed to serve as a member of the Senate Finance Committee, the powerful 15-member legislative body responsible for writing the Senate's version of the Texas state budget.

“As a physician who treats patients on a daily basis, I’m eager for the opportunity to use my firsthand experience to build a healthier Texas and help create the kind of patient-centered healthcare system that’s affordable for consumers, accessible for families, and accountable to taxpayers,” said Senator Schwertner. “I’d like to thank Lt. Governor David Dewhurst for this tremendous responsibility, and for his decades of service to our state and nation.”

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services is responsible for setting public health policy for the state, regulating physicians and other healthcare professionals, and providing legislative oversight of the state's health-related agencies. Senator Schwertner has served as member of the Committee since early 2013, after serving on the House Committee on Public Health during his lone term in the Texas House of Representatives.

“With healthcare costs representing the fastest growing portion of our state and federal budget, there has never been a more critical time for our healthcare system,” said Schwertner. “As Chairman, I intend to do everything in my power to protect patients’ rights, provide much-needed reform to our state's overburdened Medicaid system, and safeguard Texans from the detrimental effects of Obamacare.”

Schwertner takes over for State Senator Jane Nelson (R-Flower Found) who was officially tapped to lead the powerful Senate Finance Committee late yesterday.

“For over a decade, Senator Nelson's leadership of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee has set a standard that will be hard to match, but I’ll work hard to continue her tradition of fighting for a healthier Texas,” said Schwertner. “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. Following the 83rd Legislative Session, Senator Schwertner was named a “Courageous Conservative” by the Texas Conservative Coalition, a “Lone Star Conservative Leader” by the Texas Conservative Roundtable, and “Senate Freshman of the Year” by Texas Monthly magazine.

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.

###