



SENATOR CHARLES SCHWERTNER, MD
SENATE DISTRICT 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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November 17, 2014
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**Schwertner Files Legislation to
End Diversions from State Highway Fund**

SB 184 and SJR 15 will increase budget transparency and add \$620 million a year in highway funding without new taxes, tolls, fees or debt

AUSTIN, TX -- Today, Senator Charles Schwertner, MD (R-Georgetown) filed SB 184 and SJR 15, a package of legislation that will increase budget transparency and add millions of dollars in new highway funding without new taxes, tolls, fees or debt.

"Texas' incredible economic success has resulted in over 1,000 new residents moving to our state each and every day," said Schwertner. "While this remarkable growth has been great for Texas, it has clearly presented some challenges regarding the kind of highway system that's necessary to keep pace with such a rapid increase in population."

SB 184 and SJR 15 are expected to provide \$620 million a year in additional highway funding by ending a number of longstanding budgetary diversions that currently draw gas tax dollars away from the State Highway Fund to finance other state agencies and projects.

"This kind of truth-in-taxation legislation will bring much-needed transparency to our state budget and guarantee that revenues raised by the state gas tax are actually spent improving public highways, not funding state bureaucracy," said Schwertner.

"Traffic congestion on our state highways is more than just an inconvenience -- it has real consequences for the long-term health of the Texas economy," Schwertner added. "SB 184 and SJR 15 represent a commonsense approach that's capable of adding millions of dollars in new highway funding without raising taxes, issuing new debt or building toll roads."

Earlier this month, Dr. Charles Schwertner was overwhelmingly reelected to serve the citizens of Senate District 5, a ten-county region of central and east Texas. 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.

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