



SENATOR CHARLES SCHWERTNER, MD
SENATE DISTRICT 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Schwertner Files "Three Strikes" Bill to
Protect Seniors from Nursing Home Abuse**

Schwertner's SB 304 would require DADS to revoke the operating license of Texas nursing homes with demonstrated histories of serious abuse and neglect.

AUSTIN, TX -- Today, Senator Charles Schwertner, MD (R-Georgetown) filed SB 304, legislation designed to raise the standards of Texas nursing homes and protect seniors from systematic abuse and neglect.

"This bill is about protecting some of our most vulnerable Texans," said Schwertner. "Our citizens deserve to know that their parents and grandparents are being cared for in a nurturing environment, free from abuse and neglect."

If passed, SB 304 would require the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) to revoke the license of any nursing facility with three or more serious health and safety violations. These high-level violations are defined as those that "have caused, or are likely to cause, serious injury, harm, impairment, or death."

"It's time for Texas to get serious about protecting the lives of our seniors, and state sanctions need to be viewed as more than just a cost of doing business," said Schwertner. "Operators of these kinds of nursing facilities need to understand that there are real consequences for jeopardizing the health and safety of their residents."

In November 2014, 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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