



**SENATOR CHARLES SCHWERTNER, MD**  
SENATE DISTRICT 5

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Schwertner Files Second E-Verify Bill to Protect Texas Jobs**

*SB 401 would require all state contractors and subcontractors to use the federal E-Verify system as a precondition to receiving state contracts.*

**AUSTIN, TX** -- Today, Senator Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) filed SB 401, legislation that will require all state contractors and subcontractors to utilize the federal E-Verify system in determining the legal work status of their employees. SB 401 is the Senate companion to HB 889, filed in the Texas House last week by State Representative Tony Dale (R-Cedar Park).

"The bottom line is, if a contractor can't provide the state with reasonable assurances that their employees have the legal status to work in this country, then they don't need to be doing business with the state of Texas," said Schwertner. "If we ever hope to make real progress in solving our nation's illegal immigration problem, we must address the jobs, benefits, and other factors that entice immigrants to enter our country illegally in the first place."

E-Verify is an Internet-based system that compares information from an employee's Form I-9 (Employment Eligibility Verification) with data from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as well as the Social Security Administration to confirm employment eligibility.

"Texas taxpayers should be able to feel confident that their hard-earned tax dollars are being directed to legitimate purposes and not spent hiring immigrants who are ineligible to work legally in this country," continued Schwertner.

SB 401 also includes key protections for contractors who act in good faith to comply with the law and ensures that they are not unfairly penalized for any errors stemming from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' E-Verify system. The legislation recently earned the endorsement of the state's largest business and commerce group, the Texas Association of Business (TAB).

"If the legislature and the administration are going to require employers to use the E-Verify system, it is necessary to hold them harmless when a mistake is made," said Bill Hammond, CEO of the Texas Association of Business. "We thank Senator Schwertner and Representative Dale for providing these protections in their legislation and look forward to working with state leaders on the issue."

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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