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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Schwertner Tapped to Lead Senate Workgroup on Child Protection

With the state facing substantial challenges in both CPS investigations and foster care capacity, Senator Schwertner takes the lead in getting child protection back on track

AUSTIN, TX -- At the conclusion of last night's Senate Finance Committee hearing, Senator Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) was tasked with leading the new Senate Workgroup on Child Protection, a subset of the Senate Finance Committee that will evaluate the recent critical needs funding request submitted by the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).

"As a father of three, I believe that ensuring the safety and protection of our state's children is one of the legislature's most important responsibilities," said Schwertner. "As Chairman of the Senate Workgroup on Child Protection, I think I speak for everyone when I say we're committed to doing whatever is necessary to fix the disturbing gaps in our CPS and foster care system. We owe it to the children of Texas to get this right."

The workgroup plans to solicit input from DFPS concerning its plans to address troubling deficiencies in conducting timely CPS investigations and ensuring sufficient foster care capacity before making its recommendations to the full Senate Finance Committee regarding the need for additional state resources. In addition to Senator Schwertner, Senators Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury), Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham), Kirk Watson (D-Austin), and John Whitmire (D-Houston) were also named to the Senate Workgroup on Child Protection.

"I think every member of the legislature is rightfully upset by what we're seeing in CPS and foster care...but we can't just carelessly throw money at this problem and hope it somehow fixes itself," continued Schwertner. "It's worth noting that DFPS received an additional \$396.4 million from the legislature just last session -- so it's clearly important that we evaluate not just the overall amount of money that's needed but also how that money is being spent to achieve the best possible results for Texas children."

A medical doctor by training, Dr. Schwertner currently serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. Schwertner is currently serving his second term as the senator for Senate District 5, a ten-county region of central and east Texas.

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