



SENATOR CHARLES SCHWERTNER, MD
SENATE DISTRICT 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Schwertner Responds to Temporary Agreement Between Uber and Houston

AUSTIN, TX -- Today, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner announced the City of Houston had reached a temporary understanding with Uber that would allow the company to continue operating in Houston until after the Super Bowl on February 5. A spokesman for Senator Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) released the following response:

"The temporary agreement announced this morning does not change the fact that the City of Houston still has one of the most onerous, anti-competitive ridesharing ordinances in the entire nation," said Tom Holloway, a spokesman for Senator Charles Schwertner. "Senator Schwertner still has every intention of establishing a fair, predictable, and consistent regulatory framework for ridesharing services in Texas, and has every intention of seeing SB 176 signed into law."

"Houston has repeatedly claimed that regulations requiring TNC drivers to wear collared shirts, submit to a physical exam, and keep a fire extinguisher in their vehicle are not artificial barriers designed to restrict competition, but rather vital components to ensuring passenger safety...what's changed?" Holloway continued. "It seems clear that the Houston City Council is finally willing to concede that its onerous and anti-competitive ridesharing ordinance has nothing to do with protecting public safety and everything to do with protecting the financial interests of taxi companies and unions."

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