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## THE SENATE OF TEXAS



CAPITOL OFFICE:  
GE.4 • P.O. Box 12068  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711  
(512) 463-0118

## LOIS W. KOLKHORST

STATE SENATOR  
DISTRICT 18

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2018

### Senator Kolkhorst Receives Legislator of the Year Award

AUSTIN, TX - Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) has received the Legislator of the Year Award from Parent Association for the Retarded of Texas (PART), a statewide advocacy group for the developmentally disabled. The group said they chose Kolkhorst for her many years of support for State Supported Living Centers (SSLC) across Texas.

"Texas has an obligation to care for our most fragile citizens, which is why state supported living centers are vital," said Kolkhorst. "We must as a state ensure that good work in our SSLC's continues and that everyone involved always has a chance to thrive."

During the 85th Legislature, Senator Kolkhorst passed two laws to help state supported living centers. In passing Senate Bill 547, the measure expands SSLC services to local communities. With the passage of Senate Bill 1565, state law was modernized for a healthcare team to achieve faster consent for a medical or dental procedure at SSLC's. The bill was critical to remove outdated procedures that often hindered staff from providing services for those in need, which led to painful delays for residents.

"I am honored to be given this award from such an important organization of parents and family members," Kolkhorst said. "Their input is essential to improving how our state supported living centers serve its residents and I deeply appreciate their support."

"Senator Kolkhorst is widely considered a hero for the families of SSLC residents across Texas," said Susan Payne, President of PART. "She has for many years, fought tirelessly for our most vulnerable Texans."

Senate District 18, which Kolkhorst represents contains two state supported living centers located in Brenham and Richmond. PART is a statewide volunteer led organization that helps policymakers, stakeholders, families, community leaders, clinicians, and state agency representatives design and maintain a comprehensive system for our most vulnerable Texans. ###