



PRESS RELEASE

**Senator Craig Estes
Texas State Senate District 30**

For Immediate Release
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**Senator Craig Estes' Statement on Senate Bill 822
Preserve Historic Lions Municipal Golf Course**

Lions Municipal Golf Course sits in the heart of a charming old-Austin neighborhood. It is impossible to visit its quiet, tree-lined streets, with so many of the quaint original homes still standing, and not feel a powerful sense of nostalgia. To have a beautiful, affordable public space in this gorgeous setting is a true civic asset. When I learned that it was slated to be auctioned off to become yet another sleek, modern development, I was disturbed. My interest was truly piqued when I was told the course sits on public land with deep historical significance. I was struck by how proud Colonel George Washington Brackenridge, a pioneering figure with his early support for women's and civil rights, would have been to see his gift become the first desegregated golf course in the southern United States. I am truly bewildered that the University of Texas, a public institution with resources most could only dream of, would cast away this history. I am determined to do everything I can to fight this shortsighted development proposal and am proud to announce that, together with my colleagues Senators West and Miles, we have today filed legislation that would protect Munny for future generations by transferring stewardship of this public asset from the University of Texas to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. As we take on this challenge, I draw resolve from the words of perhaps America's foremost conservationist, President Theodore Roosevelt: "The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased; and not impaired in value."

Estes serves nearly 820,000 constituents across Senate District 30, which includes all of Archer, Clay, Cooke, Erath, Grayson, Jack, Montague, Palo Pinto, Parker, Wichita, Wise, and Young counties, and parts of Collin and Denton counties.

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