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**Texas State Representative Edmund Kuempel Tours
Skilled Nursing Facility in Seguin
Met with Caregivers and Elderly Residents
to Discuss Long Term Care Issues Impacting Local Seniors**

Texas Ranks 49th in the Nation in Medicaid Reimbursement; Hacienda Oaks Nursing & Rehab Residents and Caregivers Ask Rep. Kuempel to Help Strengthen and Protect Texas' Strained Long Term Care System

Seguin, TX (August 28, 2008) – In a facility tour and briefing today with Rep. Edmund Kuempel (R- Dist 44) at Hacienda Oaks Nursing & Rehab facility in Seguin, TX, front-line caregivers explained to their state legislator that adequate funding of the state's Medicaid rate is critical to providing quality care for Texas elderly, as the Texas' Medicaid rates for nursing homes ranks 49th in the nation.

According to recent Medicaid data, Texas seniors receive only \$106.59 on average per patient per day, while the national daily average is \$153.83 per patient. Caregivers explained that this difference, over time, can make a major impact in patient care programs and services.

"We appreciate Rep. Kuempel joining us today to meet our residents and staff, and to see first-hand how we can work together to improve Texas' standing in delivering quality long term care," said Gary Goodin, Administrator for Hacienda Oaks Nursing & Rehab facility in Seguin, TX. "Many citizens, including many of our policymakers in Austin, do not fully realize the dire funding situation facing long term care here in Texas and we hope to work with our state's political representatives to create additional care improvements and greater long-term security for our patients. Also important to note is that rural nursing homes, like Hacienda Oaks, frequently are the only resource for quality long term care to elderly residents in the community. Without Hacienda Oaks, our elderly residents and their family members who visit them would have to drive miles and miles from here."

"Ensuring that Texas elderly have access to high quality long term care is and always should be a policy priority for lawmakers," said Rep. Kuempel. "We should be proud of the dedication of

our local long term caregivers and applaud them for their commitment to caring for our most fragile citizens. Our legislature must take a thoughtful and sound approach to long term care policy by addressing both quality of care and adequate funding.”

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