



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Texas Health Care Association Presents Sen. Robert Deuell With Long Term Care Champion Award**

*Senator Praised for Recognizing, Understanding What Nursing Homes Require to Best Provide Elderly Residents With Quality Care*

**Rockwall, TX** – Citing Sen. Robert Deuell's (R-Greenville) superior record of supporting the long term care profession's longstanding efforts to provide superior care to seniors across Texas, the Texas Health Care Association (THCA) awarded Sen. Deuell its "Champion of Long Term Care Award" at a Senior Care at Lake Pointe ceremony Wednesday evening.

"It's an honor to be recognized by such an outstanding organization. The THCA has been a great partner and is a true champion for our seniors," said Sen. Deuell. "I will continue working to provide them with the resources they need to assure that the elderly have access to quality medical care."

"Seniors in the Dallas area and seniors throughout Texas have no better ally than Senator Bob Deuell when it comes to ensuring long term care facilities receive the critical funding from Austin necessary to ensure every patient receives the quality care they need and deserve," stated Tim Graves, President of THCA. "As a physician, and as our long term care champion, Senator Deuell has demonstrated time and again that meeting seniors' ongoing care needs -- as well as sustaining a strong workforce and local jobs base -- is contingent on adequate Medicaid funding levels from Austin in the face of cuts to Medicare in Washington."

Graves said the facility's patients and staff are grateful Senator Deuell has taken the time to stop by, and to "see first-hand how nursing homes like Senior Care at Lake Pointe are fighting daily to provide excellent care while also facing a challenging reimbursement system." The THCA President also noted, "Bob Deuell understands there will always be a direct correlation between adequate Medicare and Medicaid funding, patient care quality, and the stability of the long term care workforce. We depend upon his deep understanding of long term care issues to help ensure our message is heard by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle."

Commenting on recent statements from Governor Perry, Lt. Governor Dewhurst and Speaker Strauss that state spending will need to be slashed due to worsening budgetary conditions, Graves said, "Before we engage in discussions about cutting Texas seniors' key Medicaid-financed programs, we absolutely must look first at the fact that nursing homes are already coping with a state and federal funding environment that squeezes facilities' abilities to recruit and retain high quality direct care staff."

Concluded Graves: "A full eighty to eighty-five percent of nursing home residents are dependent upon federal and state programs that have already been cut -- or now being examined for cuts."

This double whammy on facilities and their residents is a truly ominous development. We look forward to working with Senator Deuell to ensure a fair, informed discussion of these critical issues occurs in the months ahead.”

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*Founded in 1950, the Texas Health Care Association (THCA) is the largest long term care association in Texas. THCA represents a broad spectrum of long term care providers and professionals offering long term, rehabilitative and specialized health care services. Member facilities, owned by both for-profit and non-profit entities, include nursing facilities, specialized rehabilitation facilities, and assisted living facilities.*