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Senator Robert Duncan Receives Long Term Champion Award for Outstanding Leadership in Ensuring Quality Long Term Care in Texas

Texas Health Care Association Awards Senator Duncan for 2007-2008 Efforts in Support of Texas Seniors and Their Caregivers

Lubbock, TX (June 26, 2008) – In a ceremony with Lubbock nursing facility caregivers, residents and family members today, the Texas Health Care Association (THCA) presented Senator Robert Duncan (R-28) with its Long Term Care Champion Award in recognition of the Senator’s ongoing efforts to advance the needs of his most vulnerable frail, elderly and disabled constituents receiving long term care.

“I am proud to receive this award and to work with Texas’ front-line caregivers in championing the health care needs of the elderly and of persons with disabilities,” Sen. Duncan said. “Protecting and enhancing skilled nursing care for our state’s citizens is critically important – both now and looking toward the future. I am pleased to work with the Texas Health Care Association and the long term care professionals it represents to secure much-needed funding and legislation that will ensure highest quality care for all Texans.”

Since first elected to the State Senate in 1996, Sen. Duncan has made improving health care for Texans a priority and has shown his continued leadership on health care issues while serving on the Senate Finance Committee, where he has served since 2001. Specific to advancing quality long term care, Sen. Duncan has taken the lead on numerous legislative initiatives to provide improved funding for long term care services. He has also been instrumental in establishing fair and balanced regulatory and legal structures that have benefited long term care consumers and providers.

“We greatly appreciate Senator Duncan’s dedication to his senior and disabled constituents by fighting in Austin to ensure that the long term care profession has the support it needs to continue providing them with highest-quality care,” said Tim Graves, President of THCA. “As the number of Texans entering long term care is expanding and requiring more intensive long term care services, it is more important than

ever that Texas caregivers, policymakers and others work together to ensure that our elderly are compassionately and appropriately cared for.”

During the past 12 years, Sen. Duncan has served in several key chairmanships in the Senate, including leading the Senate State Affairs Committee as chairman during the past three legislative sessions. Sen. Duncan is also a member of the Senate Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Jurisprudence Committee, and he has written legislation to protect fairness in the legal system, ensure quality education, and enhance the economic viability of West Texas.

Sen. Duncan’s tenure in the Senate has been highlighted by honors based on his tireless work ethic, keen understanding of complicated policy, and stellar reputation. Texas Monthly has three times named him among the state’s 10 best legislators, and has also listed him as a “Texas Super Lawyer” for his professional reputation in the private sector.

For more about Sen. Duncan, visit www.senatorduncan.com.

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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.