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**Cross Timbers Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center
Caregivers and Residents Thank State Rep Tan Parker for
Pledging His Support to Strengthen Texas Medicaid Program**

*State's Rank as 49th in the Nation in Medicaid Funding Undermines Most Vulnerable Local
Residents' Long Term Care Needs*

Flower Mound, TX (March 6, 2009) – In thanking State Rep. Tan Parker (R-63) for touring Cross Timbers Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, a skilled nursing and rehab facility, and meeting with residents and staff, local long term care leaders said it is critical for lawmakers, caregivers and others to sustain an ongoing discussion during the Texas legislative session about how to strengthen the state's seniors' access to quality nursing home care, and to improve Texas' current status of 49th in the nation in Medicaid funding for long term care delivery.

"We thank Rep. Tan Parker for touring our facility to meet with our residents, family members and caregiving staff to discuss first-hand how we can work together to improve our state's ranking when it comes to more adequately meeting the growing long term care needs of the most vulnerable seniors," said Tod Mahoney, administrator of Cross Timbers nursing home.

According to a recent study of the nation's Medicaid program, Texas seniors receive only \$112.79 on average per patient per day, while the national daily average is \$154.90 per patient. Roberts explained that this difference, over time, can make a major impact in patient care programs and services. Even on a regional basis, Mahoney noted, Texas is falling behind: New Mexico ranks 29th nationally, at \$137.24; Oklahoma ranks 45th, at \$123.05; Arkansas ranks 37th, at \$128.71; and Louisiana ranks 46th, at \$121.50. *(Source: BDO Seidman/mult.)*

"We face serious budgetary decisions in Austin and it is imperative that the legislature exercise sound judgment when prioritizing the allocation of funds," said Rep. Parker. "Our state's Medicaid standing will significantly impact whether Texas' long-term care providers are able to continue providing high quality, accessible care to our seniors, and I consider adequate funding for long-term care a fiscal priority. I look forward to championing the care needs of our frail and

elderly in Flower Mound.”

"The dire Medicaid funding situation facing our facility, and facilities across Texas requires responsible action from our state lawmakers," Mahoney said. "We appreciate Rep. Parker taking the time to visit our facility first hand, and to see the dedication and commitment to care excellence from our management and staff. We look forward to continuing working with our State Representative to ensure every senior in our district receives the quality care they need, when they need it."

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