



SENATOR CHARLES SCHWERTNER, MD

SENATE DISTRICT 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 25, 2013

Contact: Tom Holloway

(512) 923-5944

Texas Senate Passes Two-Year State Budget

AUSTIN, TX – Today, the Texas Senate gave its final approval to SB 1, a balanced state budget for the 2014-2015 biennium.

“I am pleased that we were able to pass a balanced state budget which stays within our constitutional spending limit, maintains a healthy Rainy Day Fund for future emergencies, and does not raise taxes on businesses or the citizens of Texas,” said Schwertner. “This responsible state budget stays within our means while setting the appropriate long-term priorities to keep our state and economy on the path to continued prosperity.”

SB 1 includes increased funding for public education, nearly restoring all cuts made from the state’s General Revenue Fund in 2011, when the legislature faced a \$27 billion budget deficit. The budget also provides for nearly \$1 billion in tax relief for Texas citizens, and creates a revolving loan fund to jumpstart water infrastructure projects - a top priority in light of the state’s historic drought. Texas voters will have the opportunity to authorize \$2 billion from the state’s Rainy Day Fund for this new water fund through a Constitutional Amendment election in November 2014.

“Education is key to the long-term economic viability of our state, and I am proud that we were able to come together to restore nearly all cuts that were made to public education during the prior legislative session,” said Schwertner. “I am also proud that we were able to address the state’s water shortage in a manner that let’s Texas voters participate in the process. Water equals jobs, and securing our future water needs is critical to both our citizens and our economy.”

In 2012, Dr. Charles Schwertner was first elected to serve the citizens of Senate District 5, a ten-county region of central and east Texas which includes Brazos, Freestone, Grimes, Leon, Limestone, Madison, Milam, Robertson, Walker and Williamson counties.

###