

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 26, 2017 CONTACT: CAITY JACKSON (512) 463-0109

## Sen. Kelly Hancock Statement on Mail Ballot Fraud Legislation

**AUSTIN** - Sen. Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) today issued the following statement on Senate passage of SB 5, legislation cracking down on mail-in ballot fraud:

"In America, the right to vote is sacred. Sadly, we've seen criminals make mail ballots a prime target for illegal voting and election fraud, as evidenced by ongoing investigations in multiple Texas counties. In Dallas County alone, 700 mail-in ballots from a local election have been sequestered by the District Attorney's office due to suspicions of fraud.

"Any attempt to scam the system and steal another Texan's vote must be addressed accordingly. SB 5 cracks down on mail-in ballot fraud by increasing penalties, creating signature verification checks and balances, and ensuring enhanced protections for elderly and disabled voters.

"When a citizen's vote is stolen, their identity, ideas, and beliefs -- which *only they* have the right to express through their vote -- have been stolen as well. This egregious fraud must be stopped.

"To the 21 members of the Texas Senate who chose to stand in support of this important legislation today, thank you."

###

Sen. Hancock represents <u>District 9</u>, which includes portions of Dallas and Tarrant Counties. He currently serves as Chairman of the Texas Senate Committee on Business & Commerce.