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CAPITOL OFFICE:
3E.2 • P.O. Box 12068
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
(512) 463-0118

LOIS W. KOLKHORST

STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 18

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Matthew Russell
512-463-0118

Senator Kolkhorst Attends Rural & Community Hospital Town Hall

Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) recently attended a town hall hosted by the Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals (TORCH) on Wednesday, August 24, in Columbus, Texas. The town hall facilitated an open dialogue between dozens of local hospital managers and Senator Kolkhorst. The event focused on crucial issues facing rural and community hospitals. Nationwide, over 65 rural hospitals closed in the past three years, with several more in bankruptcy and at least a dozen more in financial distress.

Senator Kolkhorst's district covers parts of 21 counties, and is home to seventeen of the state's 164 rural hospitals including: Bay City, Bellville, Brenham, Caldwell, Columbus, Cuero, Eagle Lake, Edna, El Campo, Gonzales, Hallettsville, LaGrange, Palacios, Port Lavaca, Refugio, Weimer and Yoakum. The rural hospitals within her district currently employ nearly 2,800 full time employees and represent a combined budget of \$420 million with a collective annual economic impact of approximately \$1.5 billion.

"Our rural and community hospitals serve as the health care safety net for the vast landscape of Texas, often when no other care is available," said Kolkhorst. "As the Senator for a largely rural district, it's imperative that we foster a sustainable healthcare system that allows these facilities to keep their doors open and providing quality care."

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