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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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87th Legislature Begins; Senator Kolkhorst Takes Oath of Office

AUSTIN - With the backdrop of COVID-19 and threats of civil unrest, the 87th Texas Legislature convened at noon on Tuesday. State Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) joined by members of her family took the Oath of Office administered by Texas Supreme Court Justice Nathan Hecht.

"Texas faces challenges on many fronts, from public health to public education," said Kolkhorst. "Over the next 140 days, I look forward to working side-by-side with my fellow lawmakers and listening to my constituents on how we can work together building a better Texas. We must continue creating jobs, lowering the property tax burden and fully funding our schools. Let's protect our most vulnerable, recognize that every Texans job is essential and find ways to move past the pandemic."

Much attention has been given to how both the Senate and House will conduct business during the ongoing COVID-19 challenge. Senator Kolkhorst expressed her hope that a balance can be found between health precautions and the ability to have an open and transparent legislative process.

"As Chair of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services, my goal has been to find solutions that protect public health and preserve our freedoms, families and jobs."

Senator Kolkhorst has already filed SB 267, the Essential Caregiver Act in an effort to strengthen the rights of nursing home residents to maintain contact and personal visits with their loved ones during state emergencies. ###