

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 12, 2010

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MERRITT APPOINTED TO SELECT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Austin - Today Texas House Speaker Joe Straus appointed Chairman Tommy Merritt to the Select Committee on Federal Legislation. The committee will closely monitor significant federal legislation with specific emphasis on health care reform efforts. The committee will also work to improve the exchange of information between Texas and Washington, DC, communicating the impact of pending federal legislation to the state economy and citizens.

"I applaud Speaker Straus for initiating and establishing this very important committee. The House is taking a pro-active stand to ensure citizens, including the members of the Tea Party movement, are not profoundly affected by legislation from the US Congress. I have been contacted by neighbors and friends with concerns about the proposed health care reforms and they are very worried. I will work hard communicating their concerns to Washington," stated Chairman Merritt.

In addition, Speaker Straus established Select Committees on Emergency Preparedness, Government Efficiency & Accountability, and Fiscal Stability.

PROCLAMATION

APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Pursuant to Rule 1, Section 16, House Rules, I, Joe Straus, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, create the House Select Committee on Federal Legislation.

The U.S. Congress is currently considering numerous policy issues that may profoundly impact the economy and citizens of Texas. Therefore, a coordinated state effort is essential to prepare for contingencies and to communicate with federal entities regarding Texas' specific needs and challenges.

The committee shall review and monitor significant pending federal legislation to the extent such legislation preempts state authority. In addition, the committee shall monitor the implementation of unfunded mandates, including those that could violate the federal Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995. The committee's work should include monitoring Congress's health care reform efforts and their potential impact on the state's health care system, health insurance regulation statutes and policies, Medicaid and children's health insurance programs, eligibility system, workforce recruitment and retention, and health care financing mechanisms.

The committee shall have 15 members.

The following members are hereby appointed to the House Select Committee on Federal Legislation:

The Honorable John Zerwas, Chair
The Honorable Garnet Coleman, Vice Chair
The Honorable Dan Branch
The Honorable Warren Chisum
The Honorable Ellen Cohen
The Honorable Donna Howard
The Honorable Susan King
The Honorable Lois Kolkhorst
The Honorable Trey Martinez Fischer
The Honorable Tommy Merritt
The Honorable Geanie Morrison
The Honorable Elliott Naishtat
The Honorable Solomon Ortiz, Jr.
The Honorable Tara Rios Ybarra
The Honorable Mark Shelton

The committee shall file a final report in the manner provided by Rule 4, Section 61, House Rules, not later than December 1, 2010.

The committee expires on the earlier of the date its final report is released or the date the 82nd Legislature convenes.

January 12, 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Straus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Joe Straus
Speaker of the House