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CONTACT: Rep. Truitt  
(817) 488-4098

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Rep. Truitt Honored with Peacemaker Award**

*Austin, Texas* – Last evening, Rep. Vicki Truitt (R-Keller) received the distinguished Peacemaker award from the Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) of Austin. The Dispute Resolution Center is an independent, nonprofit organization that provides and promotes high quality dispute resolution.

The Peacemaker Awards Ceremony is a bi-annual, invitation only, event hosted by the DRC to recognize the efforts of community problem solving, collaborative efforts of peacemaking, and the establishment of programs to deliver mediation training and services to others. Rep. Truitt was honored with this award because of legislation she carried and passed addressing problems associated with payday and auto title loans. Since 2005, the Texas Legislature has battled to find a balance between consumer protection and industry regulation. The most recent 82nd Texas Legislature overwhelmingly passed Rep. Truitt's bills that were the product of negotiations between consumer advocates and industry representatives.

As chairman of the House Committee on Pensions, Investments and Financial Services, Rep. Truitt worked with representatives of consumer advocates and the payday and auto title lending industry. She enlisted the help of the Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution in order to craft bills that were acceptable to all interested parties.

"I am humbled to receive this honor, but credit is due to Susan Schultz and Suzanne Schwartz with the Center for Dispute Resolution at the University of Texas School of Law and the many consumer advocates and industry representatives who were dedicated to creating meaningful consumer protection and preserving businesses and jobs in Texas," said Truitt.

*Representative Vicki Truitt is a seventh term legislator from Tarrant County representing Grapevine, Colleyville, Southlake, Keller, Westlake, and parts of Trophy Club and Fort Worth. She is Chair of the House Committee on Pensions, Investments and Financial Services, and is a member of the House Committees on Calendars and Public Health.*

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