

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Goodwill Industries Honors Rep. Vicki Truitt
as
“Legislator of the Year”**

Organization is the latest to acknowledge Truitt’s leadership on payday/title loan legislation.

Dallas, Texas – Yesterday, **Goodwill Industries** leaders from all across Texas gathered, to recognize Representative Vicki Truitt (R-Keller) as "**Legislator of the Year**" for her work during the 82nd Legislature, and in particular for passing legislation for the reasonable regulation of payday and title loan businesses.

"Representative Truitt represented both Goodwill and all Texans statewide in her pursuit of justice and appropriate regulation of an industry which previously had no oversight," said Lori Henning, Executive Director for the Texas Association of Goodwills.

During the 2011 legislative session, Rep. Truitt authored a package of bills to address growing concerns associated with payday and auto title loans. The Texas Association of Goodwills engaged in consumer advocacy on this issue as many individuals they serve fell victim to unscrupulous actors in the industry.

Rep. Truitt, who was previously **honored by AARP** for her work on the payday/title loan issue, brought together a host of non-profit and religious organizations, as well as industry representatives, during the 82nd Session to craft fair, reasonable legislation that would protect consumers while preserving private enterprise and jobs in Texas. She also won the **2011 “Peacemaker Award”** from the **Travis County Dispute Resolution Center** for tackling this difficult issue.

“Being a small businessperson myself, I’m a strong supporter of capitalism and free markets, but we could not ignore the fact that thousands of Texans complained that they had been victims of predatory tactics by bad actors,” Truitt stated. She continued, “That these consumers had no legal recourse was simply wrong. As chairman of the committee responsible for oversight of financial institutions, it was my responsibility to act in the best interest of Texans.”

This is the second time the Texas Association of Goodwills has given this distinguished award since its creation.

State Senator John Carona (R-Dallas) was also recognized with this distinguished award for carrying and passing Rep. Truitt’s payday/title loan legislation (HB 2592 and HB 2594) in the state Senate.

Goodwill assists people with disabilities and other barriers to employment.

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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