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For Immediate Release

Day One of the Session and the Speaker's Race

AUSTIN, January, 15, 2015 - When the Texas Home School Coalition (THSC) Watchmen arrived at the Capitol on Tuesday, January 13, it was obvious that the opening day of the 84th Texas Legislative Session would be different from most opening days of past legislative sessions, due to its newsworthy Texas House of Representatives speaker's race.

State representatives arrived to vote on the speaker of the House for the first time in nearly 40 years, making an important statement necessary for this session and sessions to come. Speaker Joe Straus, of Bexar County, elected in 2009 and running for his fourth consecutive term as Texas speaker of the House, ran against Rep. Scott Turner of Rockwall County. Thousands of constituents showed up at the Capitol on Tuesday for the vote.

Speaker Straus, who for the past several sessions has been one of the most prominent roadblocks to the passage of conservative legislation, was officially challenged for the speakership for the first time, requiring every representative to go on record as voting for a candidate.

Due to the extremely liberal committee assignments arranged by Speaker Straus over the years, a large portion of legislation passed in the last several sessions has been increasingly liberal in nature. These committee members have stood as roadblocks against the two bills the THSC Watchmen promoted during the last session, as well as against many other conservative organizations.

Although Straus won the speaker election by a wide margin on Tuesday, the election results proved that House Republicans do not unanimously agree with him. Even though Representative Turner was not elected, the record vote could definitely help to weed out some of the Republicans who are trending toward the left. A more conservative speaker in the Texas House of Representatives would remove longstanding roadblocks for conservatives, which, according to the Texas Home School Coalition, would greatly benefit Texas families and home schooling freedoms.

About THSC: Since 1986 THSC has served and informed parents and the home schooling community in Texas. THSC members and supporters are informed families who believe in their right to direct the care, control, and upbringing of their children and who assert that parents determine what is in the best interest of their own children. THSC is the recognized authority advocating for and defending home schooling and parental rights in Texas. For more information visit THSC.org.