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State Senator to Visit Local Child Care Center to Inform Legislative Agenda

AUSTIN, TEXAS—November 1, 2008—Texas State Senator Joe Smith will visit ABC Child Care center in order to gain a better understanding of how quality early education impacts families in his district. Senator Smith will tour the center and speak with both directors and teachers about the specific needs of the community and the services offered at the center.

According to the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition (TECEC) a statewide advocacy organization, more than half of all children under the age of 6 have both parents or their only parent in the workforce. And although early care and education programs including child care, Head Start, and pre-k can play a role in preparing young children for educational success, too many children in Texas do not have access to a quality early learning environment. As a result, ABC Child Care center wants to show Senator Smith firsthand what core components make up a quality setting for young children. ABC Child Care center, a fixture in the French Place neighborhood for almost 32 years, holds a strong reputation for meeting the developmental needs of young children and will host the Senator on Friday.

“It is very important to us to make sure that the policymakers representing us are aware of how child care can play a role in making sure that these children enter school ready for success,” said Amy Brown, Director of ABC Child Care center. “We view this visit as the beginning of a long relationship with the Senator and we plan to stay in touch with him during the legislative session and beyond,” Brown added.

The issue of early childhood education has gained momentum at the state capitol over the past few years and advocates across the state are hoping to make big changes in the upcoming 81st Legislative Session in order to expand access to quality programs particularly among at-risk populations. What may merely appear as a friendly visit to a local child care center could have a significant impact on the Senator’s legislative agenda for the session.

“We are hoping that Senator Smith’s visit to our school will be a huge success with many positive outcomes,” said Amy Brown. “We want to answer any questions the Senator may have about high quality early education while showcasing our talented staff and wonderful facility,” Brown added. “We recommend that centers across the state get involved and invite their legislator to visit their program and to ensure that when votes are being cast on this issue, the legislator will remember the young Texans they met on this visit and think about their future”.

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