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**Senator Lois Kolkhorst recognized with Children's Health Care Hero Award
by the Children's Hospital Association of Texas**

Austin, TX – The Children's Hospital Association of Texas (CHAT) honored Senator Lois Kolkhorst with the Children's Health Care Hero Award for her outstanding contributions and support of children's healthcare initiatives during the 87th Legislative Session.

Sen. Kolkhorst served as the senate sponsor of House Bill 133, which allows moms to keep their Medicaid coverage for six months after childbirth as opposed to two months. Sen. Kolkhorst also assisted in passing six-month continuous eligibility for children in Medicaid and The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) as part of end-of-session bill negotiations. Additionally, Sen. Kolkhorst authored Senate Bill 809, which ensures transparency into COVID-19 federal funds provided to healthcare institutions. The award was presented to Sen. Kolkhorst on Monday, Nov. 15th at Texas Children's Hospital The Woodlands.

"We are grateful to Sen. Kolkhorst for serving as a champion and an advocate for children," Stacy Wilson, president of CHAT, said. "We are grateful for her dedication to keeping children safe and healthy, and we are proud to honor her with this award for her continued leadership in supporting children's hospitals across the state. Sen. Kolkhorst demonstrated her commitment to improve access to healthcare for all Texans this session and we look forward to our continued partnership to improve healthcare for children."

Medicaid provides health coverage to almost four million children in Texas. Medicaid also provides services for children with medically complex conditions to supplement

what their private insurance covers so that they can spend less days in the hospital more at home and at school. The Children's Health Care Hero Award recognizes Texas leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to a high-quality and appropriately funded children's healthcare system in Texas.

"I am honored to be recognized as a Children's Health Care Hero by the Children's Hospital Association of Texas," Sen. Kolkhorst said. "Children in Texas deserve access to the best health care possible. I am honored to work with CHAT and their hospitals who care for all children in Texas."

Prior to receiving the award, Sen. Kolkhorst toured Texas Children's Hospital, The Woodlands with Chief Medical Officer Dr. Paul Sirbaugh. Sen. Kolkhorst was able to visit the ambulatory area, the vaccine clinic, the NICU and other areas of the pediatric hospital that opened in 2017.

"We are thrilled to show Senator Kolkhorst the state-of-the art campus and specialized care we are able to provide for thousands of children in her district and beyond," said Dr. Sirbaugh. "We are grateful for her commitment to children's health care in Texas, especially new mothers and babies, and are lucky to have her support the world-renowned work we provide to children and women in Texas."

Kolkhorst represents District 18, which spans north to south from Central Texas to the Gulf Coast, and east to west from the western edge of Harris County to counties in Southeast Texas.

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About the Children's Hospital Association of Texas

The Children's Hospital Association of Texas (CHAT) is a non-profit association whose mission is to advance children's health and well-being by advocating for policies and funding that promote children's access to high-quality, comprehensive health care. Learn more about CHAT at chatexas.com or follow CHAT on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ChildHospAssnTX>.

About Texas Children's Hospital

Texas Children's Hospital, a not-for-profit health care organization, is committed to creating a healthier future for children and women throughout the global community by leading in patient care, education and research. Consistently ranked as the best children's hospital in Texas, and among the top in the nation, Texas Children's has

garnered widespread recognition for its expertise and breakthroughs in pediatric and women's health. The hospital includes the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute; the Feigin Tower for Pediatric Research; Texas Children's Pavilion for Women, a comprehensive obstetrics/gynecology facility focusing on high-risk births; Texas Children's Hospital West Campus, a community hospital in suburban West Houston; and Texas Children's Hospital The Woodlands, the first hospital devoted to children's care for communities north of Houston. The organization also created Texas Children's Health Plan, the nation's first HMO for children; Texas Children's Pediatrics, the largest pediatric primary care network in the country; Texas Children's Urgent Care clinics that specialize in after-hours care tailored specifically for children; and a global health program that's channeling care to children and women all over the world. Texas Children's Hospital is affiliated with Baylor College of Medicine. For more information, go to www.texaschildrens.org. Get the latest news by visiting the [online newsroom](#) and Twitter at twitter.com/texaschildrens.