



500 W. 13th
Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: 512-476-8288
Fax: 512-476-3428

Email: info@truecaretexas.com

SPECIAL TRUECARE PHARMACY ALERT!

CHUCK HOPSON ANNOUNCES PARTY SWITCH

Longtime Pharmacist Gets Big Name GOP Support

State Rep. Chuck Hopson, the Texas House of Representative's only pharmacist, has switched from the Democratic to the Republican party in what is seen as a major coup for Texas Republicans who had been courting Hopson for months. Hopson is known in the Texas Legislature as someone willing to work across party lines to accomplish what is good for Texas. He is recognized by legislators from both parties as the person they consult with on pharmacy issues.

Hopson, an independent pharmacist from Jacksonville, has represented District 11 since 2001. He owns and operates May Drug in Jacksonville. The district includes Cherokee, Houston, Panola, and Rusk Counties. He serves on the powerful Appropriations Committee, as the Chairman of Budget and Oversight for the Committee on Judicial Affairs, and is a member of the Redistricting Committee. Chuck also serves as a member of the Rural Caucus, and the Texas Conservative Coalition.

The significance of his party switch was shown by the GOP luminaries lining up for a press conference next week when Hopson will officially announce that he will switch parties. Among those already announced to join Hopson at the official announcement are Texas U.S. Senator John Cornyn, Texas House Speaker Joe Straus, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples and numerous East Texas Republican officials.

"Chuck is an outstanding public servant who fights hard for his East Texas constituents," Straus said. "The Republican Party warmly welcomes Chuck because of his integrity and commitment to conservative values."

In a statement Hopson said that President Obama and the Democrats in Congress do not reflect the concerns and conservative values of his district. He said he wanted to announce his decision to allow Democrats time to select a Democratic nominee for the 2010 election.

"I believe in democracy and respect its process," he told the Quorum Report, an online political newsletter based in Austin. "I will be running as a Republican in 2010 and will campaign hard to win the Republican primary and general election."

Hopson said he agreed strongly with the Republican Party on issues like family values, illegal immigration reform, gun rights, private property rights and the death penalty.

"Chuck Hopson is a great addition to the Texas Legislature regardless of party affiliation," said TrueCare Government Affairs Director John Heal, "keeping him in the legislature is extremely important for those of us who support pharmacy and all of those who support good government."

"When it comes to influencing votes on pharmacy issues in the Texas House of Representatives, no one even comes close to Chuck Hopson," said Robert Culley, a member of the TrueCare Texas Legislative Team. "His help has been invaluable to Texas pharmacy and we look forward to continuing to work with him in the coming years."

Hopson represents one of the most Republican districts in Texas still represented by a Democrat, said TrueCare Public Affairs Director Steve Ray. "No one ever doubted that Chuck Hopson was a conservative that put the interests of his district above political party," Ray said. "He has always stayed true to his core beliefs and will continue to represent those who elect him to office."

Hopson graduated from the University of Houston, where he received a degree in Pharmacy. Prior to his service as a State Representative, Chuck was active in local government where he was elected to the Jacksonville School Board, the Jacksonville City Council, and was appointed Vice-Chair of the local Planning and Zoning Commission. Chuck also serves on the Board of Trustees for Lon Morris College in Jacksonville. He is an active member of his community serving on numerous boards and charitable organizations, including Austin Bank, the Nan Travis Hospital Foundation, and the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce. Chuck has also served First United Methodist Church of Jacksonville as a Sunday school teacher. Chuck and his wife Billie, a former educator and school counselor for more than thirty years, have three grown children and six grandchildren.