



For Immediate Release  
May 19, 2011

Contact: Lee Johnson  
(512) 794-9268

## Respectful Language Bill Passes Texas Senate

Today marks an important milestone in the journey to eliminate the “R-word” for Texans with intellectual disabilities. HB 1481, authored by Representative Vicki Truitt and sponsored by Senator Judith Zaffirini, passed the Texas Senate and will be sent to Governor Rick Perry for his signature.

HB 1481 establishes preferred terms and phrases by requiring the use of “person first” language and replacing the term “mental retardation” with “intellectual disability” in all new and revised state laws.

“We are grateful for the leadership of Representative Truitt and Senator Zaffirini in making such a clear statement of respect and value from the great state of Texas for our fellow citizens with intellectual disabilities,” said Danette Castle, CEO of the Texas Council of Community Centers.

In a strong statement of support from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislature, HB 1481 passed both the House and Senate by unanimous vote.

The Texas Council of Community Centers dropped the “R-word” from its name in November 2011.

***As an association the Texas Council of Community Centers supports the thirty-nine (39) Community Centers in their public mission, across all 254 counties, to serve as an effective system of care for Texans with mental illness, intellectual disabilities and substance use disorders.***

###

For more information, please contact Lee Johnson at [ljohnson@txcouncil.com](mailto:ljohnson@txcouncil.com).