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PRESS RELEASE

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Hearing Set on HPV Bill

Deshotel Wins Bipartisan Support

(Austin) – State Representative Joe Deshotel (D-Beaumont) announced today that he has been working with members of both parties to bring an educational and comprehensive plan on the issue of HPV, the human papilloma virus.

"I've tried to reach out to both parties to work in the best interests of women and men regarding this preventable disease," Deshotel stated, "I am proud that we were able to work together to bring this measure forward." The proposal is set to be heard on Monday, February 19, 2007, in Public Health Committee.

The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is the leading cause of cervical cancer. At least 50% of sexually active people will get HPV at some time in their lives. Every year in the United States about 6.2 million people get HPV. HPV is most common in young women and men who are in their late teens and early 20s. There is a new vaccine that protects against four HPV types, which together cause 70% of cervical cancers.

HB 1379, authored by Deshotel and joint authored by Public Health Chairwoman Dianne White Delisi (R-Temple) and Chairman of the Environmental Regulation Committee Dennis Bonnen (R-Angleton), and State Representative Donna Howard (D-Austin) the bill envelopes some of Deshotel's original proposal HB 146, which was filed in November of last year.

The new proposal would direct the Texas Department of State Health Services to use existing resources to produce and distribute materials about approved HPV vaccines the effectiveness, availability, and contraindications. It also contains an education component public on the effects of HPV on both women and men.

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