Gov. Rick Perry's Remarks Regarding the Texas Youth Commission Agreement

*Note - Gov. Perry frequently departs from prepared remarks.

Friday, March 02, 2007

Thank you for joining us. After a number of discussions in recent days with the legislative leadership, I am happy to announce we have an agreement on the framework needed to reform the Texas Youth Commission and ensure proper oversight so this broken agency can be fixed. We have agreed to put a conservator in place immediately. Subsequently, once the agency moves out of conservatorship, we will empower a single commissioner to oversee the day-to-day operations of the TYC. And there will be an advisory board put in place to assist the single commissioner and advise on agency operations, similar to what we have today with our health and human service agencies. Leadership has agreed that the best person to serve as conservator for the remainder of session is Jay Kimbrough, who has been on the ground for several weeks working to reform this agency. Simultaneously, we will begin a search for the right individual to serve as conservator following session until a single commissioner is appointed.

This agreement is vital to ensuring we are all focused on taking the necessary steps to reform this agency on behalf of the children and taxpayers it serves. With the right framework in place, we can now work together in a bipartisan fashion to make fundamental change so the children in the system are no longer subject to abuse. I want to thank Lieutenant Governor Dewhurst, Speaker Craddick, Chairman Whitmire, Chairman Madden, Senator Hinojosa, and all the members of who have helped broker this agreement.