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**FirstCare Health Plans Welcomes Rep. John Carter for Visit**

*31<sup>st</sup> District Congressman Visits FirstCare Headquarters in Austin, Texas*

**AUSTIN, Texas** (October 18, 2016) – On Wednesday, October 12, 2016, Rep. John R. Carter (R-TX-31) visited [FirstCare Health Plans](#) at the corporate offices in Austin after meeting with FirstCare President and CEO Darnell Dent last month in Washington, D.C.

Rep. Carter sat down with the FirstCare leadership team to learn more about what the health plan offers Texas communities—including areas of District 31 (Bell and Williamson counties) and much of West Texas—and to discuss some of the challenges facing the health care industry today.

Topics covered included network adequacy and reach throughout rural Texas, tele-health, the shortage of providers in several medical disciplines and health care reform.



Rep. Carter (left) and FirstCare President and CEO Darnell Dent (right) at FirstCare's corporate headquarters.

“We appreciate Rep. Carter’s support and the time he spent with us,” said FirstCare President and CEO Darnell Dent. “Since one of our core beliefs, as a company, is that all Texans and our communities should be healthy, it was wonderful to share insights and ideas with one of our congressional representatives—someone who serves members of some of the same communities and who understands the challenges facing health plans in this day and age.”

Following the meeting, Rep. Carter addressed an assembly of FirstCare employees, sharing his stance on several issues, including: border security and immigration, law enforcement and defense, and medical care for military veterans. “I was honored to visit with employees and tour FirstCare Health Plans’ headquarters in Williamson County,” he said. “FirstCare is a home grown Texas company committed to providing better health to all Texans. I value our employers throughout the 31<sup>st</sup> congressional district and I am committed to working with them to provide an environment which helps them succeed in creating jobs, and increasing the economic vitality of our communities.”

*(more)*

**Rep. Carter** represents Texas District 31, which includes Fort Hood, the largest active duty armored military installation in the free world. He serves as Chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Appropriations, co-chairman of the House Army Caucus, is on the Subcommittee for Commerce, Justice and Science and the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

**About FirstCare Health Plans**

Our mission is to provide access to high quality, affordable health care through strong partnerships in the communities we serve. Since 1985, we've been serving the health care needs of members across North, West, and Central Texas. Today, our service area includes 143 counties, with local offices in Abilene, Amarillo, Lubbock, and corporate offices in Austin, Texas. We offer a wide range of HMO, PPO, HSA, and ASO products through a variety of programs, including small and large employer plans; state, federal and teacher plans; government programs; and the Health Insurance Marketplace. With the support of our owners, Covenant Health in Lubbock and Hendrick Health System in Abilene, we serve over 188,000 members. For more information, please visit [www.FirstCare.com](http://www.FirstCare.com).