

# HB320

Author:  
Rep. Donna Howard

# BILLS, BILLS, BILLS!

A closer look at positive women's health legislation from the 87th #TXLege

## BILL SUMMARY

Bring back the Women's Health Advisory Committee



## RELATED TO TWHC POLICY PRIORITY

Ensure Texas has a strong qualified provider network with the capacity to serve all women in need of preventive health services.

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT

This bill has been referred to the House Public Health Committee. Passing through this committee would be the first major accomplishment in this bill's progression. You can find out if your Representative serves on the House Public Health Committee with this [search tool](#).

## PUBLIC HEALTH:

Rep. Stephanie Klick  
Rep. R. D. "Bobby" Guerra  
Rep. Steve Allison  
Rep. Liz Campos  
Rep. Garnet Coleman  
Rep. Nicole Collier

Rep. Jacey Jetton  
Rep. Tom Oliverson  
Rep. Four Price  
Rep. Reggie Smith  
Rep. Erin Zwiener



## HOW WILL THE BILL IMPROVE WOMEN'S HEALTH?

HB 320 stands to improve communications between the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and women's health stakeholders by reinstating the Women's Health Advisory Committee (WHAC). The past WHAC provided a space for all stakeholders to share their concerns, insight, and suggestions on how to implement program policies without disrupting women's health services.

Reintroducing the WHAC will allow this committee to continue its important work guiding the development of Healthy Texas Women (HTW) and the Family Planning Program (FPP). These programs serve as the primary safety net for low-income women in need of essential preventive services such as well-woman exams, cancer screenings, and contraception.



Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

c/o Healthy Futures of Texas 2300 W. Commerce St., Ste. 212, San Antonio, TX 78207 | (210) 223-4589 | [info@texaswhc.org](mailto:info@texaswhc.org) | [texaswhc.org](http://texaswhc.org)

## Here are some talking points you can utilize when talking or emailing about HB 320:

- The state's women's health programs have gone through tremendous changes in the past 10 years.
- In the past year alone, the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services approved the 1115 Healthy Texas Women Demonstration Waiver, and the new program component Healthy Texas Women Plus launched.
- HHSC has already implemented several policy changes in Healthy Texas Women due to the Waiver approval, with limited communication or opportunities for education for the provider network
- Providers deserve to be well informed and trained on how these changes may impact their practice.
- Prioritizing open, consistent communication with women's health providers can foster improved engagement and trust between the provider network and HHSC.
- The best way to serve Texans is with a strong, qualified provider network. The Legislature and HHSC can show their support for providers and commitment to the well-being of Texans by reinstating the WHAC.