



June 28, 2021

Texas Health and Human Services Commission  
Attention: Basundhara Raychaudhuri, Waiver Coordinator  
Via Email: TX\_Medicaid\_Waivers@hhsc.state.tx.us

**Re: Comments on the Texas Healthcare Transformation and Quality Improvement Program  
1115 Waiver Extension**

On behalf of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition, thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the Health and Human Services Commission's (HHSC) extension application for the Texas Healthcare Transformation and Quality Improvement Program 1115 Waiver.

The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition (TWHC) and its 87 healthcare, faith, and community-based member organizations are dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Texas women, babies, and families by ensuring access to preventive healthcare for all Texas women. Access to preventive and preconception care – including health screenings and contraception – means healthy, planned pregnancies and early detection of cancers and other treatable conditions.

TWHC supports securing continued funding to help cover safety-net hospitals and mental health providers that treat uninsured Texans. However, this is an opportunity to utilize this powerful waiver to create real comprehensive healthcare coverage for over a million uninsured low-wage Texas workers, most of whom are people of color. TWHC supports implementation of a comprehensive healthcare coverage solution to meet Texan's needs and ensure that women can get access to the care they need before, during, and after pregnancy, as recommended by the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee.<sup>1</sup>

In Texas, three out of ten women are low income and one in five are uninsured.<sup>2</sup> A woman working a low-wage job in Texas who is not pregnant, has few, if any options, for insurance, especially if it is not offered by her employer. Texas' family planning programs - Healthy Texas

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<sup>1</sup> Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force and Department of State Health Services Joint Biennial Report. Texas Health and Human Services. September 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Hamel, L., Wu, B., Brodie, M. Sim, S., & Marks, E. (2018). Views and Experiences Related to Women's Health in Texas, Selected findings from the Kaiser Family Foundation/Episcopal Health Foundation 2018 Texas Health Policy Survey.



Women and the Family Planning Program - provide vital, but limited health services. These programs are not a substitute for health coverage that can facilitate access to the full range of healthcare services women need. For these reasons TWHC supports finding a comprehensive healthcare solution.

Thank you for your consideration, and all your work on women's preventive healthcare. If you have any questions or if we can provide further information, please contact me at (210) 223-4589 or [EDelgado@TexasWHC.org](mailto:EDelgado@TexasWHC.org).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evelyn Delgado". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Evelyn" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Delgado".

Evelyn Delgado  
Chair, Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition