



T E X A S
Women's Healthcare
COALITION

**House Public Health Committee
House Bill 1641
Testimony of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition
March 20, 2019**

The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition (TWHC) and its 84 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 the early detection of cancers and other treatable conditions. The state's women's health programs, Healthy Texas Women and the Family Planning Program, provide these services to those without access to other forms of healthcare coverage.

TWHC thanks our legislators for their commitment to women's preventive healthcare, and supports initiatives, such as House Bill 1641 by Representative Button.

HB 1641 targets women who have been auto-enrolled from Pregnant Women's Medicaid into the state-administered, Healthy Texas Women (HTW). After a woman delivers under Pregnant Women's Medicaid, she remains covered under Medicaid for 60 days. Through HTW auto-enrollment, on the 61st day postpartum, that former Medicaid client is now able to access the services provided through HTW, including pelvic exams, contraceptive services, and screenings for chronic conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure, and cholesterol.

The auto-enrollment process has proven to be an important provision of the program. However, Healthy Texas Women is still relatively new, and it needs support, promotion, and clear guidance on how eligible clients can access services.

Currently, when a woman is auto-enrolled she receives a letter in the mail 30 days postpartum. HB 1641 is seeking to enhance this notification to include information about the services this new mother will be able to access and a list of local providers offering HTW. It is vital to maintain a connection to the healthcare system. Though HTW only provides a limited array of benefits, preventive healthcare and family planning services are often the only contact a young woman will have with the healthcare system. This touchpoint can act as an entry point to other care, if needed.

Access to healthcare, especially women's health and family planning services, is critical for all Texas women. Thank you for your consideration, and for your commitment to improving the lives of women and families in Texas. If you have any questions or if we can provide further information, please contact me at (210) 223-4589 or EDelgado@TexasWHC.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Delgado

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evelyn Delgado". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "E".

Chair, Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition Steering Committee Members

Texas Medical Association
District XI (Texas) American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Texas Academy of Family Physicians
Texas Association of Community Health Centers
Methodist Healthcare Ministries
Teaching Hospitals of Texas
Women's Health and Family Planning Association of Texas
Texans Care for Children
Center for Public Policy Priorities
Chair - Healthy Futures of Texas

Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition General Members

Access Esperanza Clinics Inc.	North Texas Alliance to Reduce Teen Pregnancy
Amistad Community Health Center	North Texas Nurse Practitioners
Austin Advanced Practice Nurses	Panhandle Nurse Practitioner Association
Austin Physicians for Social Responsibility	Pasadena Health Center
AWHONN Texas	People's Community Clinic
Brazos Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.	Port Arthur Housing Authority
Brazos Valley Nurse Practitioner Association	Pregnancy and Postpartum Health Alliance of Texas
Cardea	SALVERE (Striving to Achieve Literacy via Education, Research, and Engagement)
Center for Community Health, UNTHSC	San Antonio Metropolitan Health District
Centering Health Institute	San Antonio Nurses in Advanced Practice
Central Texas Nurse Practitioners	Schneider Communications
Children's Hospital Association of Texas	South Plains Nurse Practitioner Association
Coalition for Nurses in Advanced Practice	South Texas Family Planning & Health Corp.
Coastal Bend Advanced Practice Nurses	Southeast Texas Nurse Practitioner Associates
Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation	Special Health Resources
Community Healthcare Center	St. David's Foundation
Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse Midwives	Susan Wolfe and Associates, LLC
Department of Ob/Gyn of UNTHSC and the ForHER Institute	Texas Association of Community Health Plans
El Buen Samaritano	Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
El Centro de Corazón	Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
El Paso Area Advanced Practice Nurse Association	Texas Council on Family Violence
Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley	Texas Health Institute
Fort Worth Region Nurse Practitioners	Texas Hospital Association
Haven Health	Texas Medical Association Alliance
Hill Country Advanced Practice Nurses & Physicians Assistants Association	Texas Nurse Practitioners
Houston Area Chapter of NAPNAP	Texas Nurses Association
Houston Area Nurse Practitioners	Texas Oral Health Coalition
League of Women Voters of Texas	Texas Pediatric Society
Legacy Community Health Services	Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry
Lone Star Family Health Center	Texas Women's Foundation
March of Dimes – Texas	The Contraceptive Initiative
Mental Health America of Greater Houston	The SAFE Alliance
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health	The Women's Fund for Health Education and Resiliency
National Council of Jewish Women—Texas State Policy Advocacy Network	United Methodist Women
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health	University Health System
North Harris Montgomery Advanced Practice Nurse Society	Valley AIDS Council
	Women's & Men's Health Services of the Coastal Bend, Inc.
	Young Invincibles