



T E X A S
Women's Healthcare
COALITION

**Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Senate Bill 2132
Testimony of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition
March 27, 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 Senator Beverly Powell's Senate Bill 2132, which seeks to improve the information provided to women on Pregnant Women's Medicaid who are auto-enrolled into the state-administered, Healthy Texas Women (HTW) program.

After a woman receiving services under Pregnant Women's Medicaid delivers, she retains Medicaid coverage for 60 days. On her 61st-day postpartum, if determined eligible, the client is automatically able to receive services provided through HTW, which includes 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, because HTW is still a relatively new program, it will benefit from additional support, promotion, and clear guidance on how eligible clients can access services.

Currently, an auto-enrolled woman will receive a HTW-notification letter in the mail at 30-days postpartum. SB 2132 seeks to enhance this notification by including information on HTW providers near her, and about specific services she can access through the program.

Continuity of care is vital. While HTW only provides a limited array of benefits, preventive healthcare and family planning services are often the only contact young women have with the system.

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 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
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Center for Public Policy Priorities
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Health
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North Harris Montgomery Advanced Practice Nurse Society
North Texas Alliance to Reduce Teen Pregnancy
North Texas Nurse Practitioners
Panhandle Nurse Practitioner Association
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Texas Women’s Foundation
The Contraceptive Initiative
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