



**Senate Health and Human Services Committee**  
**Testimony of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition on Senate Bill 1149**  
**April 21, 2021**

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill 1149 by Senator Kolkhorst. The bill directs the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to contract with Medicaid managed care organizations to provide Healthy Texas Women (HTW) services. This seemingly builds on SB 750 by Senator Kolkhorst passed in the 86th legislative session which directed HHSC to assess the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of providing HTW through managed care and the potential impact on the change in delivery model to women receiving HTW services.

During the interim, HHSC published a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) on providing HTW services through the Managed Care model. TWHC distributed HHSC's RFI to TWHC members, including a number of HTW providers, in an effort to ensure that a diversity of stakeholder opinions would be submitted to HHSC. TWHC also participated in this assessment process, submitting responses to the RFI. To date, HHSC has not shared a summary of its findings with RFI respondents nor published a report as directed by SB 750. This means that stakeholders, including HTW providers, are unclear on whether HHSC has determined that it is feasible and cost effective to provide HTW through Managed Care and, if so, what impacts HHSC anticipates to women and providers as a result of delivering HTW through Managed Care.

A number of questions and unknowns were highlighted in our RFI response and during meetings with HHSC and other stakeholders during interim. More specifically, while TWHC and many of our members agreed that there may be benefits to delivering HTW services through a managed care model (i.e., network management, service coordination, and/or case management for postpartum women), a number of concerns were raised about the role of traditional providers of core family planning services including impacts on the close coordination between HTW and the Family Planning Program. Because women's health in Texas has a long history of programmatic and administrative changes, TWHC and our members



stressed the need for significant stakeholder engagement—specifically those that represent providers participating in HTW and traditional HTW providers themselves in addition to the health plans—to discuss the impacts a change in service model would have prior to HHSC making a determination.

We remain hopeful that before moving forward on this bill, we can ensure that all questions and concerns raised during interim are answered and that the analysis from HHSC's RFI and internal feasibility study are released—providing stakeholders with the information they need to meaningfully engage. Thank you for considering legislation to improve access to women's preventive health services, including contraception.

TWHC represents various organizations providing direct healthcare, advocacy, or other community-based services across Texas. We are eager to work with you on these issues. We are happy to provide any additional information and welcome the opportunity to schedule follow up conversations. You can contact me at [edelgado@texaswhc.org](mailto:edelgado@texaswhc.org) or 210-535-6991.

Respectfully,

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

Evelyn Delgado  
Chair, Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition



# Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

PROMOTING ACCESS TO PREVENTIVE  
HEALTHCARE FOR ALL TEXAS WOMEN

## 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

Every Body Texas

Texans Care for Children

Every Texan

*Chair - Healthy Futures of Texas*

## Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition General Members

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