

Texas Update - February 2007

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<http://votervoice.net/groups/tachc/?registeronly=true>

Many Thanks to our Policy and Issues Forum Participants

Here at the end of February, the Texas Legislature is in full swing. Thanks to all of you who participated in TACHC's Policy and Issues Forum (P&I) earlier this month. Your work helped us raise the Community Health Center profile among our representatives, and the feedback from your visits has helped TACHC hone its policy and funding requests.

The Ball is Rolling for CHIP Restoration in Texas - Call NOW to Show Your Support

On **Thursday, March 1** - *that's tomorrow*- the House Human Services Committee will be hearing a host of CHIP restoration bills. The following members have bills posted for tomorrow (a summary document of these bills is attached) that restore some or all of the CHIP and Children's Medicaid programs. If your elected official is listed here, please **CALL THEM TODAY** to thank them for their commitment to children's health coverage. Ask to speak to their Health Aide to leave a message for the Representative.

Representative Sylvester Turner, Houston	HB 109	512-463-0554
Representative Richard Raymond, Laredo	HB 171	512-463-0558
Representative Garnet Coleman, Houston	HB 669	512-463-0524
Representative Veronica Gonzales, McAllen	HB 701	512-463-0578
Representative Abel Herrero, Corpus Christi	HB 704 & HB 838	512-463-0462
Representative Soloman Ortiz, Jr., Corpus Christi	HB 710	512-463-0484
Representative Jessica Farrar, Houston	HB 714	512-463-0620
Representative Joaquin Castro, San Antonio	HB 715	512-463-0669
Representative David Leibowitz, Helotes	HB 718	512-463-0269
Representative Valinda Bolton, Austin	HB 720	512-463-0652
Representative Chuck Hopson, Jacksonville	HB 725	512-463-0592
Representative Jim Dunnam, Waco	HB 729	512-463-0508
Representative Joe Farias, San Antonio	HB 737	512-463-0714
Representative Ana Hernandez, Houston	HB 739	512-463-0614
Representative Lon Burnam, Fort Worth	HB 816	512-463-0740
Representative Craig Eiland, Texas City	HB 817	512-463-0502

Representative Jose Menendez, San Antonio	HB 821	512-463-0634
Representative Mike Villareal, San Antonio	HB 822	512-463-0532
Representative Joe Heflin, Crosbyton	HB 824	512-463-0604
Representative Dora Olivo, Missouri City	HB 852	512-463-0494
Representative Elliott Naishtat, Austin	HB 1051 & HB 740*	512-463-0668
Representative Boris Miles, Houston	HB 1095	512-463-0518
Representative Eddie Lucio, III, San Banido	HB 1119	512-463-0606
Representative Pete Gallego, Alpine	HB 1162	512-463-0566
Representative Ellen Cohen, Bellaire	HB 1220	512-463-0389
Representative Armando Martinez, Weslaco	HB 1261	512-463-0530

*NOTE: Only Naishtat's bills HB 740 and 1051 relate to fixing the broken eligibility system.

** Not being heard tomorrow but was filed this week is Representative John Davis's CHIP restoration bill: HB 2049. You can thank him for his bill at 512-463-0734

On the Senate side, several bills have been filed to address children's health coverage. As those move through the process, the Update will send you more information. For now however, **it's important to note that only Senator Judith Zaffirini's bill, SB 266, addresses 12 months continuous eligibility for Children's Medicaid.** Senator Zaffirini's constituents can call her office toll free at **800-851-1568** to offer their support for her bill and thank her for her commitment to all children's health coverage programs.

If your elected official is not on the list above, call them to ask them to support the following policies in children's health coverage. This is the agenda of the Texas CHIP Coalition and the Insure Texas Kids Campaign that TACHC supports. Click [here for House](#) phone numbers and [here for Senate](#) phone numbers.

1. Implement 12 month continuous eligibility for CHIP and Children's Medicaid
2. Eliminate bureaucratic roadblocks to encourage personal responsibility and help low-income families achieve self-sufficiency:
 - a. Fix problems with the Integrated Eligibility System to prevent eligible kids from losing CHIP and Medicaid coverage
 - b. Eliminate the CHIP asset test
 - c. Eliminate the CHIP 90 day waiting period for uninsured children
 - d. Deduct childcare and child support expenses when calculating income for CHIP
3. Provide adequate reimbursement for Medicaid and CHIP providers
4. Invest in outreach and education to ensure that all eligible children get the health care that they need

The Texas State Budget - What's Happening Now

This week Texas budget writing committees are nearing the end of their initial round of state funding decisions. Community health centers are working to submit specific policy requests relating to correcting FQHC reimbursement in the Medicaid Women's Health

Program (WHP), retaining HHSC's wrap-around payment for FQHCs in Medicaid managed care, ensuring that Title V, X, and XX family planning dollars can be used to fill in the benefit gaps in the WHP, and funding for FQHC capital development. We're also building on your P&I efforts in advocating for increased funding for the Primary Health Care Program and securing additional health care infrastructure dollars for the DSHS family planning program. We'll find out in the next few weeks if our issues will be included for discussion in the state budget bill so stay tuned.

Thanks to the Texas Advocates That Helped CHC's Nationwide Get a \$207 Million Increase in the Federal Budget

You've all heard about it: Congress approved a \$207 million increase in the Federal Community Health Center program, including \$25 million earmarked for base grant adjustments for existing health centers. The ONLY reason this funding increase happened was that community advocates across the country contacted their elected officials in Washington. Here is a list of your Texas colleagues who sent messages through our Voter Voice system and are part of our \$207 million dollar victory!

Aguilar, Rose Ann	Cathedral Guadalupe
alfaro, arturo	Uniter Medical Centers
Alpert, Emily	Brownsville Community Health Center
Baber, Greg	Community Health Development, Inc
Bailey, Jim	Smithville Community Clinic
Blasi, Jana	TACHC
Breaux, Donald	Fort Bend Family Health Center
Brown, Roger	Community Health Development Inc.
Burtrum, Jo	
Butler, Patrick	Galveston County Health District
Calderon, Cynthia	Esperanza Health & Dental Centers
Campbell, Mike	Esperanza Health and Dental Center
Carrillo, Maria	Community Health Development, Inc.
Castanon, Mayela	Community Health Development, Inc.
Chase, Janice	Heart of Texas Community Health Center
Clifton, Trudy	
Cortez, Elizabeth	Esperanza Health and Dental Centers
de la Cruz, Esmeralda	Nuestra Clinica del Valle
Edwards, Carol	Fort Bend Family Health Center
Elguezabal, Martha	United Medical Centers
Frazier, Lonnie F	Esperanza Health and Dental Centers
fry, misty	Bonham Comm Hlth Cener
Galindo, Fonda	West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind
Garcia, Enrique	Brownsville Community Health Center
Gill, John	Heart of Texas Community Health Center
Glenn, Lisa	Community Health Centers of Austin/Travis County
Gonzales, Ventura	Vida Y Salud-Health Systems, Inc.
Goodfleisch, Marcy	Austin Travis County Community Care Services Dept.
Goodwin, Doyle	N. Central TX Community Health Care Center, Inc.
Gorena, Sam	Su Clinica Familiar
GRELLE, KATHY	COMMUNITY HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, INC
Guerrero, Javier	Nuestra Clinica Del Valle

Hansford, Bobby	Harris County Hospital District
Harris, James	Los Barrios Unidos Community Clinic
Hill, Sherry	Comm. Health Ctrs of South Central Texas
	North Central Texas Community Health Care Center, Inc.
Hiraki, Phyllis	Our Health/Nuestro Centro de Salud
Kidd, Jennifer	People's Clinic of Denton County, Inc
King, Tim	UNITED MEDICAL CENTERS
Kypuros, Teresa	Fort Bend Family Health Center, Inc.
Laas, Harvey	Community Health Centers of South Central Texas, Inc.
LaGrega, Verne	Laredo Police Department
lichtenberger, Nick	Gateway Community Health Center
Lichtenberger, Oralia	Vida Y Salud-Health Systems, Inc.
Lopez, Ramon	Vida Y Salud Health Systems, Inc.
Lopez, Rick	Los Barrios Unidos Community Clinic
Marquez, Leonor	Lone Star Circle of Care
Martin, Carrie	Nuestra Clinica del Valle
Martinez, Luis	Fort Bend Family Health Center, Inc.
MCCAIN, LORI	university of the Incarnate Word
mittchell, sally	Community Health Development Inc.
moreno, vicenta	Nuestra Clinica Del Valle
Moreno, Xavier	Luling Community Dental Center
Murphy, David	East Texas Community Health Services, Inc.
O'Neill, Darla	Our Health/Nuestro Centro de Salud
Ocasio, Sylvia	NCDV
Ortiz, NORMA	Family Practice Center
Patterson, Allen	Lone Star Circle of Care
Perialas, Pete	OUR HEALTH
QUIROZ, ELOISA	Nuestra Clinica Del Valle
Ramirez, Lucy	Heart of Texas Community Health Center
Rebber, Glenn	
Reeves-Brown, Berniece	Community Health Service Agency
	Fort Worth Northside CHC dba/Albert Galvan Health Clinic
Remor, Toni	La Esperanza Clinic, Inc.
Reyes, Becky	CHCL
Riewe, Ginger	Community Action Health Center
Roblez, Homero	Lone Star Circle of Care
Rodosta, Jen	South Texsa Rural Health Services, Inc.
Rodriguez, Roel	CHC of South Central Texas, Inc.
SALAS, DALLYS	
Sanders-McCrory, Marilyn	Presidio County Health Services, Inc.
Schlesinger, Bill	Project Vida Health Center
Seitz, Susan	Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
Serafine, Maria	Lone Star Circle of Care
Shepherd, Dan	Community Health Service Agency
SILVA, KRYSTAL	CHDI
Sweitzer, John	Pasadena Health Center
Todd, Eric	BVCAA, Inc.
TORRES, LUCY	Nuestra Clinica Del Valle
Trevino, Dori	South Texas Rural Health Services, Inc.

Vestal, Mark	Family Health Center
Weideman, Cheryl	Kaufman Community Health Center
Wilhelm, Karol	Cross Timbers Health Clinics, Inc.
wills, susan	esperanza health and dental centers
Witzkoske, Candice	Community Health Ctrs. of South Central Texas, Inc.
Young, Anganette	South Central Houston CHC
Zamora, Sarah	Community Health Centers of South Central Texas
Alexander, Donna	
Austin, Michael	
Bhambhani, Shveta	
Bible, Lynda	Fort Bend Family Health Center, Inc.
Coburn, Katie	Texas Association of Community Health Centers
De Hoyos, Maria	
Delius, Roberta	
Duran, Humberto	
fuller, Teresa	
Goertz, Roland	
Gonzalez, Ricardo	
Gor, Beverly	
Hansford, Bobby	
Harris, Jacquelynn	
Herrera, Eddy	
Heumier, Gary	
Koester, Donald	
Kypuros, George	
Lockett, Jill	
Longridge, Janice	
Martinez, Dora	
Mitchell, TaSheena	
Morales, Rebecca	
Ontiveros, Lorenza	
Polando, Rosalinda	
Ramirez, Diana	
Rosas, Lucia	
Smith, Heather	
Square, Emit	SCHCHC
Trejo, Judy	

There are over 800 Texas advocates signed up in our Voter Voice system, and just over 100 Texas advocates responded to this Federal action alert. Our response this time was good- but we need to do better! As always, **you can ask more advocates to register with us at <http://votervoice.net/groups/tachc/?registeronly=true>**