

# House Insurance

March 14, 2023



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## Roll Call

**Oliverson, Tom - Chair** - Present  
**Johnson, Ann - Vice-Chair** - Present  
**Cain, Briscoe** - Present  
**Paul, Dennis** - Present  
**Perez, Mary Ann** - Present  
**Cortez, Philip** - Present  
**Harris, Caroline** - Present  
**Hull, Lacey** - Present  
**Johnson, Julie** - Present

## Resources

[Hearing notice](#)

Video of hearing

- [Part 1](#)
- [Part 2](#)

## Testimony/bills

*Voted out bills:*

### **HB 625**

Oliverson said that Rep. Harris agreed to a floor amendment that will limit the PT copay cap to just for the period that PTs can work without a physician referral; the “direct access” period of 10-15 days. The bill was voted out 9-0 and will go to the main calendar.

### **HB 290**

Expands MEWAs (association health plans), voted out 9-0.

### **HB 1902**

Smithee provider directory bill.

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## TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH PLANS

Meeting Update–March 14, 2023  
Jamie Dudensing, CEO

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Noted that the 2019 bill was worded just as “facility based physicians”, this bill just adds the word provider.

**Oliverson:** This dovetails into surprise billing work. “I think it’s a great bill”

### **HB 916: 12 month contraceptive mandate**

#### **Rep. Ordaz**

Notes the bipartisan group of authors on the bill and on the committee. Says the bill will help in rural areas. Women have to drive sometimes 8 hours and 280 miles. Bill requires a “3 month trial” for new medication. “Now that we are in a post Roe world” encouraged by the support for this bill.

**Oliverson:** I appreciate you taking this on. “I know that this sounds like a coverage mandate” “There are zero registered in opposition”

#### **Kristen Lenau**, Texas Women’s Healthcare Initiative)

The Healthy Texas Women Program already requires 12 month dispensing. Rural women won’t have to drive hundreds of miles. Helps victims of violence, college students going abroad, working moms.

#### **Dr. Scott Simpson**, TMA, other physician groups

Testified to the benefits of contraceptives and believes there is cost savings by avoiding unintended pregnancies.

**Oliverson:** What’s the likelihood that a prescription changes in a year?

**Simpson:** It’s not uncommon that a prescription changes, but uncommon after 3 months.

**Simpson:** The other thing to consider is that this bill doesn’t mandate a 12 month prescription, it’s a woman's choice

#### **Carolina Cogdill**, Haven Health Clinics, Amarillo

Listed barriers to care. Up to 240 miles women must drive. Baby born to a teen mom in Potter county every 2 days. Told the story of a rural farming family with one truck. Studies show 12 month dispensing reduces unintended pregnancies by 30%.



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**Rep. Ordaz** closed on the bill and noted no fiscal note.

**HB 1337: SMI step therapy**

**Rep. Hull**

Explains the importance of keeping people on drugs when they are stable and how the bill is a compromise among stakeholders.

**Dr. Aventa, TMA**

Internal medicine doctor. Talked about incontinence prior auth issues. Says that mental health drug changes or delays are much more concerning.

**Greg Hansch, NAMI**

Talked about adverse outcomes of untreated mental illness.

**Blake Hutson, TAHP**

Testified that TAHP appreciated being able to work on the bill and that we are neutral.