

# Expanding Affordable Coverage Options:

HB 1001 & SB 605 create a new mandate-lite insurance option



**This legislation hits reset** on the “Consumer Choice of Benefits” plans to allow Texas businesses and families to purchase mandate-lite coverage that meets their needs but avoids expensive government mandates.

**What’s the problem?** Government mandates have driven health insurance premiums to unsustainable levels, leaving employers and families with very few affordable options. In the past, Texans had mandate-lite insurance options through the Consumer Choice of Benefits model, but that’s been eroded by a continuous stream of new mandates over two decades.



**Small business owners in Texas rank the cost of health insurance as their single biggest problem every year since 1986.**



**Texas ranks 3rd among states for the number of mandates that exceed the Affordable Care Act.**



**87% of employers say that health care costs are rising at an unsustainable rate.**

**Build on Efforts from the the 87th Legislature:** New health care products through the Farm Bureau (HB 3924) & Texas Mutual (HB 3752) added last session avoid government mandates and provide more choices for some Texans. The state should build more options that avoid mandates exceeding federal requirements and are available to ALL Texans.

## History of Big Savings & Impact:

- Health Plans reported savings of **26.5% for HMOs** and **38% for PPO** plans.
- When Consumer Choice of Benefits plans first passed in 2003, **over 8,000 employers** used this new coverage to cover previously uninsured groups or individuals from 2004-2008.



**Disclosure requirements** associated with the law would ensure patients know exactly what they are buying and any mandates that are not included in the coverage.