



**Texas Association of Health Plans**  
1001 Congress Ave., Suite 300  
Austin, Texas 78701  
P: 512.476.2091  
[www.tahp.org](http://www.tahp.org)

April 25, 2023

**Re: TAHP Opposes HB 5274**

Dear Chairman Frank and Members of the House Committee on Human Services,

The Texas Association of Health Plans (TAHP) is the statewide trade association representing health insurers, HMOs, Medicaid managed care, and other health plans that serve over 20 million Texans. Our members are committed to improving access to affordable, quality health care in Texas.

We write to express our opposition to HB 5274, which proposes an annual review of provider types that should be added to expedited credentialing in the Medicaid program. We believe that such a review would not only be bureaucratic and unnecessary but would also lead to an overuse of expedited credentialing, undermining its intended purpose and increasing costs.

The current credentialing process in Texas is effective, as it ensures that providers' competence and quality of care are assessed before they join a managed care organization (MCO) and provide services to our most vulnerable populations. Moreover, the streamlined credentialing process resulting from SB 200 (84R) has already led to a significant reduction in provider abrasion and a more efficient process overall. There is no evidence to suggest that further expanding expedited credentialing will improve health outcomes or increase access.

Expedited credentialing should be reserved for specific circumstances only, like when a provider joins an existing group the MCO already contracts with, as the credentialing process serves as a crucial safeguard for ensuring quality care and protecting taxpayers from fraud, waste, and abuse. MCOs are currently required to offer expedited credentialing for a wide range of provider types, but only in the context of joining an existing practice that already has a contract with the MCO. This approach helps reduce the risk of paying a provider who has not undergone a thorough check of their license for safety and history of fraud, waste, and abuse.



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However, MCOs also have the ability to expedite the credentialing of any provider when necessary. Nonetheless, it is important to keep in mind that an expansion of expedited credentialing can pose potential risks to the safety and quality of care provided to vulnerable populations in Texas.

In light of the potential negative consequences of expanding expedited credentialing, including increased costs for the Medicaid program, increased risk of fraud, waste, and abuse, and added unnecessary administrative burdens, we respectfully oppose HB 5274 and appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Lynch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Lynch  
Director of Policy & Medicaid Operations  
Texas Association of Health Plans