

TAHP Opposes SB 1220: Don't Mandate Coverage For Non-Medical Drivers of Health



TAHP opposes SB 1220 because it increases the cost of premiums for families and employers by mandating coverage requirements that, while important, are not health care services.

- Texas health plans are already required to cover the medical care services of this mandate under federal and state mental health parity laws.
- This mandated treatment model aims to require health plans to cover services for social determinants of health, such as job placement, mentoring, or family education sessions.
- While these services may be important, they are not health care and should not be mandated coverage for health insurers, Texas families, or employers.

SB 1220 mandates coverage for social determinants of health by wrapping in non-medical services, like job placement, with actual health care services, under a new payment mandate.

How does it work? The bill mandates coverage for a treatment model called “coordinated specialty care” where already covered health services are combined with non-health care services, raising the cost of your health coverage for non-health care services, such as:

- Family education, support, and involvement;
- Support from peers in recovery from mental illness;
- Support for education and employment goals.

Independent Studies Raise Questions on Cost & Effectiveness:

- A study from California found that this mandate would increase costs of health coverage by nearly \$70 million for the care of just 5,010 individuals.
- But more importantly, the independent analysis found that this care model “does not appear to be more effective than outpatient treatment-as-usual.”
- California lawmakers decided not to pass this mandate.