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July 31, 2023

Texas Health and Human Services Commission
HHSRulesCoordinationOffice@hhs.texas.gov

Re: Comments on Proposed Rule 23R018

Dear Rules Coordination Office,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed rule amendments to 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 351.823, concerning the Texas Health and Human Services e-Health Advisory Committee (eHAC) extension. The Texas Association of Health Plans (TAHP) supports a two-year extension of the Committee.

As the statewide trade association representing health insurers, HMOs, Medicaid managed care, and other health plans that serve over 20 million Texans, TAHP is committed to ensuring that Texas families and employers have access to affordable, comprehensive, and high-quality coverage. We believe eHAC serves an important role in furthering those goals by examining the ways health information technology and exchange systems can deliver cost-effective and efficient telemedicine, telehealth, and home telemonitoring services.

In recent years, eHAC has played critical roles in recommending Texas Medicaid Medical Policy updates to the definition of telemedicine to ensure new technologies could be effectively used during the pandemic, worked to ensure that Texas' health data standards do not deviate from national standards, and improved access to remote patient monitoring for Texas' most vulnerable patients.

We look forward to eHAC's continued role in advising the state's health care agencies on strategic planning and implementation for health care information technology advancements.

Sincerely,

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

Jamie Dudensing, RN
CEO
Texas Association of Health Plans