

# TAHP Priorities for the 89th Legislative Session



## Stop Costly Mandates on Employers & Families

Overregulation and excessive mandates are driving up health care costs and limiting affordable coverage options.



- **Mandate Moratorium:** Avoid new mandates and overregulation that raises the cost of coverage and forces employers and families to pay higher prices. Texas has passed a dizzying array of health insurance mandates—23 in the past two sessions alone. Texas employers need relief from these excessive mandates.
- **Mandate Transparency:** Before passing any new mandates on the health coverage of employers and families, estimate the cost and impact through a mandate fiscal note.
- **Protect Employer Coverage:** Protect ERISA flexibility and oppose legislative attempts to add costly mandates on self-funded employers. Major employers across all industries oppose these costly mandates.

## Unleash Innovation and Flexibility to Lower Health Care Costs for Texans

Employers and families are demanding innovation and flexibility to access coverage for the health benefits that meet their unique needs and help them control costs. However, outdated Texas laws and regulations stand in the way.



- **Incentivize Patients to Shop for Low Cost, High Quality Care:** Modernize outdated regulations to allow innovative health plans to incentivize patients to shop for high value care with lower out of pocket costs.
- **Remove Restrictions on Innovative Payment Models to Lower Costs:** Innovative models like direct primary care incentivize quality over quantity with paying providers based on comprehensive value-based care.
- **Expand Affordable Coverage Alternatives:** Allow more mandate lite, affordable insurance coverage options that meet employer and family needs without overregulation.

## Protect Patients and Fight Back Against Out-of-Control Health Care Prices

Texas has been a national leader in protecting patients from surprise billing and requiring price transparency. However, Texas also leads in price gouging and anti-competitive practices from heavily consolidated health care providers.



- **Stop Inappropriate Facility Fees & Ensure Transparency:** Facility fees have rapidly become the new surprise bills in health care popping up in clinics and even for telehealth. Texas should put a stop to abusive fees and require transparency to protect patients.
- **Build on Price Transparency:** Texans still like a complete price picture with transparency from all health care providers. Patients need a guaranteed upfront estimate in order to make the most informed care decisions.
- **Root out Anticompetitive Consolidation:** Highly consolidated hospital systems and private equity driven monopolies are raising prices behind the scenes in health care. Market share should be transparent and shouldn't be used to harm patients with anticompetitive practices.

## Protect & Build on the Success of Texas Medicaid Managed Care

Texas has long been a leader in creating a Medicaid managed care model that delivers high quality care, saving more than \$13 Billion for taxpayers. Lawmakers should protect Texas market-based Medicaid managed care, reject proposals that disrupt patient care and add costs, and look for opportunities to efficiently offer benefits that Texas families need.



- **Ensure Comprehensive Medicaid Mental Health Coverage:** Millions of Texans, especially children, lack the mental health coverage they need, increasing risks of foster care placement, crises, and hospitalizations, while raising state costs.
- **Protect Managed Care Innovation:** Oppose any attempts to undermine managed care flexibility, suppress innovation, or endanger stability and efficiency in the Medicaid managed care program.
- **Transition all Remaining Services to Managed Care:** While Medicaid managed care already covers 97% of Texans on Medicaid, there are still some services administered through the more expensive fee-for-service program.
- **Reject a Full Carve Out of Medicaid Drug Benefits or a Single Statewide PBM for Medicaid:** These proposals are proven to disrupt care coordination, threaten patient access to medications, and significantly increase taxpayer costs.