



**Texas Association of Health Plans**

1001 Congress Ave., Suite 300

Austin, Texas 78701

P: 512.476.2091

www.tahp.org

March 12, 2025

Dear Chair Kolkhorst and Members of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee,

The Texas Association of Health Plans (TAHP) is the statewide association representing health insurers, HMOs, Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs), and other related entities providing coverage for more than 20 million Texans. **TAHP supports Senate Bill 963 (SB 963), which clarifies that Medicaid MCOs may inform enrollees about private market insurance options—particularly those eligible for discounted coverage through the federal marketplace (HealthCare.gov). This small but important step helps families maintain health coverage and avoid becoming uninsured.**

Although the number of uninsured Texans has declined in recent years, nearly five million Texans—over 16% of the state’s population—still lack health insurance, representing the highest rate in the nation and more than double the national average. While some point to Medicaid expansion as the only solution, [data from Texas 2036](#) indicates that twice as many uninsured Texans qualify for private market tax credits or even zero-premium private market plans compared to those who would be eligible under Medicaid expansion. Despite this, 70% of the uninsured report not knowing if they could qualify for these discounted health plans.

During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, Medicaid enrollment rose significantly due to the continuous coverage requirement. As that requirement ended, hundreds of thousands of individuals and families discovered they were no longer eligible for Medicaid but remained unaware of other affordable coverage sources—particularly private marketplace plans that can cost less than many realize once tax credits are applied.

SB 963 helps address this awareness gap by confirming that Medicaid MCOs can share basic information about private coverage, ensuring a smoother transition when individuals lose Medicaid eligibility. Not only does this strengthen continuity of care, it also ensures families can make more informed decisions about the coverage option that best meets their individual needs. By harnessing the power of the private market to reduce the number of uninsured, we can keep families healthier, lower uncompensated care costs, and bring greater competition and stability to the individual marketplace.

By passing SB 963, the Legislature can unlock the full potential of existing coverage options and further reduce Texas’ uninsured population—without creating new government programs or



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mandates. TAHP appreciates your commitment to finding common-sense solutions that keep more Texans insured. We respectfully urge you to support SB 963 and help ensure families have the best possible information to obtain coverage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Dudensing". The script is fluid and cursive, with a prominent dot above the "i" in "Dudensing".

Jamie Dudensing, RN

CEO

Texas Association of Health Plans