

# Legislative Update



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MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The background of the slide is a photograph of two hands, one holding a blue pill and the other holding a pink pill. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue and red gradient. The text is white and centered.

# 2021 FMMA Annual Conference

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Texas Health Care Initiatives and Strategies 2021

David Balat

Texas Public Policy Foundation



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# The Pressure to Expand Medicaid (Timeline)

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- Growing grassroots pressure throughout the State (only 12 States holding out)
- Federal Government offers bribe of additional 5% to traditional Medicaid (March 2021)
- Bipartisan support of Healthy Families, Healthy Texas Plan (April 7, 2021)
- Rejection of 1115 Waiver based on procedural complaint (April 16, 2021)



# Healthy Families, Healthy Texas

- Composed of 12 Bills (not an omnibus)
- 7 R Bills / 5 D Bills
- 9 Passed into Law



THE TEXAS HOUSE PLAN ON HEALTHCARE:  
**HEALTHY FAMILIES,  
HEALTHY TEXAS**  
A bipartisan legislative package to ensure healthcare in the Lone Star State is accessible and affordable for all 29 million Texans

**INCREASING ACCESS TO CARE**



**EXPANDING TELEHEALTH**  
HB 4

- Provides greater access to care for patients who are in underserved communities and codifies the state's ability to reimburse providers for these innovative services in order to incentivize more to provide them



**INCREASING ACCESS TO BROADBAND**  
HB 5

- Unleashes the full benefits of telemedicine by expanding access to reliable, high-speed internet across the state, benefiting patients in underserved communities who have less access to physicians and specialists



**CARING FOR TEXAS CHILDREN**  
HB 290

- Streamlines the Medicaid eligibility process by providing two 6-month periods of continuous coverage for eligible children in the Medicaid program, ensuring that eligible children do not fall off coverage when they need it most



**EXPANDING ACCESS TO VACCINES FOR VULNERABLE TEXANS**  
HB 797

- Allows home care and hospice agencies to administer certain vaccines to medically fragile and elderly Texans in the comfort and safety of their own homes

**IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES**



**INVESTING IN BRAIN HEALTH**  
HB 15

- Creates the infrastructure needed to invest in research on brain health, including how we make strides in preventing and treating traumatic brain injuries and substance use disorders



**REDUCING DRUG PRICES FOR THE UNINSURED**  
HB 18

- Allows ~3 million qualifying, uninsured Texans to access significantly reduced prices on life-saving medications such as insulin, which benefits the uninsured and prevents costly visits to the emergency room



**ADDRESSING MATERNAL MORTALITY**  
HB 133

- Protects the lives of mothers by continuing Medicaid eligibility for new mothers for the first year of their child's life



**INCREASING HEALTH EQUITY**  
HB 4139

- Creates an office within the Health & Human Services Commission to eliminate health disparities, tackle health equity, and pursue grants to advance this goal

**INCREASING AFFORDABILITY OF CARE**



**PROVIDING CONSUMER PROTECTIONS**  
HB 2487

- Requires hospitals to disclose prices in advance of providing the services



**EXPANDING HEALTHCARE OPTIONS**  
HBs 3923,  
3924 & 3752

- Expand free-market offerings for competitive healthcare coverage for small employers and individuals who are not Medicaid eligible or do not have access to employer-based plans






# KEEP TEXAS

# HEALTHY

## MEDICAID



### Expansion

-  Applies to **1 – 1.5 million** people and costs \$5 billion
-  **Extends** coverage to able-bodied working adults crowding out access for the disabled
-  **Increases** the use of emergency rooms for non-emergency care
-  **Fewer** doctors accept Medicaid which decreases the quality of care
-  **662k** uninsured Texans already have access but do not use it

## HEALTHY FAMILIES



### Healthy Texas

- ➔ Serves **4-6 million** Texans and costs \$200 million
- ➔ **Improves** Medicaid for current enrollees
- ➔ **Lowers** health care costs for all Texans and eliminates surprise billing
- ➔ **Lowers** drug prices
- ➔ **Increases** access to health care providers



# Win Summary

- Prescription Drug Savings Program for the Uninsured
- Hospital Price Transparency
- Farm Bureau
- Texas Mutual
- Licensure Reciprocity
- Maternal eligibility increased from 60 days to 6 months (fix Medicaid)
- Extends application requirement from 6 to 12 months for children
- Telemedicine



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A close-up photograph of two hands held palm-up. The left hand holds a single light blue pill, and the right hand holds a single pink pill. In the background, a glass jar filled with many small, light-colored pills is visible on the left side. The text "Health Care is Personal, Not Partisan" is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

Health Care is Personal, Not Partisan

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