

Healthcare Priorities

The Texas Association of Business (TAB) champions healthcare policies that create a thriving business environment and promote a healthier Texas. TAB prioritizes reducing unnecessary costs, expanding healthcare options for employers and employees, and improving access to quality care statewide. By driving innovation, ensuring transparency, and maintaining regulatory balance, we empower businesses to deliver meaningful healthcare benefits and build a robust, efficient healthcare system for all Texans.

TAB's healthcare priorities include:

Protecting employers and employees from legislation that increases health care costs

- Preserve employer, employee, and health plan benefits of ERISA by opposing any attempt to erode the federal preemption of state law relating to health benefit plans.
- Oppose statutory & regulatory mandates that increase the long-term cost of health care to employers.
- Support measures that would increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of health care.
- Support legislation to improve the administration of health care services and lower administrative burdens for employers.
- Support legislation to require a state agency to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the impacts of any proposed healthcare mandates on public and private employers before it can be adopted by the legislature.

Expanding the choices available for employers to purchase health insurance

- Support “Consumer Choice of Benefit” health plans in the state-regulated market to give employers an additional, low-cost option when purchasing health benefits for their employees. Consumer Choice of Benefit plans include insurance products that eliminate all contract, benefit, and regulatory mandates that exceed federal requirements.
- Support measures to provide stability in the individual state-regulated and group health insurance marketplace and provide appropriate coverage options that are affordable and accessible to employers and enrollees.
- Support small businesses in expanding access to affordable health coverage by promoting the adoption of Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangements (ICHRA) and cooperative arrangements, enabling employers to offer flexible, federal and state tax-advantaged healthcare benefits tailored to their employees' needs.

Improving access to the healthcare delivery system

- Support expanding the use of telemedicine to reduce costs and increase access to medically necessary care.
- Support removing barriers to top of license practice for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), Physician Assistants (PAs), and Pharmacists to reduce healthcare system inefficiencies and boost healthcare outcomes.

- Increase the number of health care providers available to Texans without sacrificing quality of care by removing regulatory barriers to qualified providers moving to the state.
- Support efforts to give all workers, consumers, and employers convenient access to tests and vaccines through multiple types of health facilities and practitioners.
- Support innovative value-based care models that improve health outcomes and reduce cost throughout the health care system.

Support access to cost-effective, high-quality Medicaid & CHIP programs to improve population health and reduce social barriers to care

- Continue supporting Medicaid managed care delivery throughout the state and ensure MCOs continue to fulfill access and service obligations to enrollees.
- Ensure HHSC is equipped with sufficient resources and processes to support Medicaid managed care delivery in Texas.
- Support policies that improve outreach to families eligible for but not enrolled in Medicaid & CHIP, including strategies that smoothly transition children and new mothers who are no longer eligible for Medicaid & CHIP to other types of coverage.
- Support outreach and coverage for women on Medicaid for 12 months post-delivery to improve the health outcomes of mothers and babies.
- Support policies that keep rural hospitals open and promote access to Labor & Delivery services. These services are necessary to maintain economic vibrancy throughout Texas by making smaller towns and rural areas more attractive to younger Texans and employers.
- Support policies that improve the behavioral health continuum of care by adding services to Medicaid and CHIP including intensive outpatient programs and partial hospitalization programs.
- Support legislation that will reduce the number of uninsured Texans by decreasing the cost of state-regulated health insurance while maintaining meaningful coverage.

Support systemwide strategies to improve the value of health care

- Adequately fund the Texas All-Payer Claims Database to allow public access at reasonable cost and to maximize the value of the data to ensure transparency and accountability for decision-makers tasked with improving the state's population health.
- Empower employees and consumers with information regarding the cost and quality of healthcare services.
- Support efforts to promote competition and increase transparency of healthcare price and quality data.
- Support policies to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse of healthcare dollars.
- Protect the ability of health insurers and health benefit plans to negotiate contracts with health care providers without government interference.
- Oppose the expansion of non-economic damages in medical liability litigation to prevent needless increases in medical cost and litigation.
- Support policies to improve the state's medical bill dispute process to reduce the number of "surprise bills" and efficiently decide fair and reasonable payments.