



T E X A S  
Women's Healthcare  
COALITION

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**Five Women's Health Heroes of the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature**

**Austin, TX** – On June 1, 2015, the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition officially designated five state legislators as Women's Health Heroes of the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature. Senator Jane Nelson and Representatives Sarah Davis, Jessica Farrar, Donna Howard, and John Zerwas showed outstanding commitment to improving women's access to preventive healthcare, including contraception, through the three principal state programs for women's health. Through their leadership, these programs saw an increase of \$50 million for the next biennium over the 2014-2015 funding levels.

"This session saw impressive dedication to increasing the funding in these programs and to improving their delivery of services," said Dr. Janet Realini, chair of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition. "The tireless work of our five recipients on behalf of the preventive care services provided through the Texas Women's Health Program, the Expanded Primary Health Care program, and the Family Planning program make them true Women's Health Heroes."

Particularly noteworthy this session were Representative Howard's strategic work to include key budget riders and amendments; Representative Farrar's clear-sighted guidance of the House Women's Health Caucus; Representative Davis' critically important support for women's healthcare in budget deliberations; and Representative Zerwas' behind-the-scenes work for prevention programs. As Chair of the Senate Finance Committee and as a budget conferee, Senator Nelson strongly supported increased funding for the state's programs that provide contraception for low-income women.

Many recent reports show the devastating effects of the 2011 cuts to women's healthcare funding and the subsequent decrease in provider capacity and number of clients served. This session's funding increase is crucial in our work of improving the health of women, children, and families in Texas.

**For more information, contact Aimee Arrambide, Policy Associate, Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition: [AArrambide@TexasWHC.org](mailto:AArrambide@TexasWHC.org).**

*The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition is a coalition of 60 organizations dedicated to achieving access to preventive healthcare for all Texas women.*