



Date

The Honorable Jane Nelson
Chair, Finance Committee
Texas State Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Senator Nelson:

On behalf of the 67 organizational members of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition (TWHC), I write to thank you for your support for access to preventive healthcare for Texas women. The Senate's base budget which maintains funding for our state's women's health programs is a crucial first step towards ensuring that more women in Texas will have access to lifesaving preventive care, including well-woman exams, contraceptive care, and cancer screenings.

Access to preventive healthcare is critically important to the health and well-being of women and babies, and to the fiscal health of our state. In 2013 and 2015, the Legislature demonstrated a commitment to women's healthcare by investing in core preventive health services. As our state seeks strategies to combat high maternal mortality rates and the threat of Zika transmission, the need for these services has never been greater.

The TWHC looks forward to continuing its work with HHSC and state leadership to ensure the successful progress of our state's women's health programs. Key to this success will be strengthening access to the most effective, long-lasting forms of contraception (implants and intrauterine devices), and producing detailed, timely data on the needs of women in the state. To this end, we appreciate the Finance Committee's inclusion of rider language strengthening data collection and continuing the state's efforts to increase access to long-acting contraception. We also recognize the importance of ensuring services provided follow quality family planning guidelines. We are eager to work with HHSC and the Legislature to build upon the state's progress on these issues.

Once again, thank you for all your support. If you have any questions or if we can provide further

information, please contact me at (210) 223-4589 or JRealini@TexasWHC.org.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Realini MD MPH". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Janet Realini, MD, MPH

CC: Members, Senate Committee on Finance