



T E X A S
Women's Healthcare
COALITION

House Appropriations Committee
Article II: Department of State Health Services Appropriations
Testimony of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition
Evelyn Delgado
February 12, 2019

The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition (TWHC) and its 84 healthcare, faith, and community-based member organizations are dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Texas women, babies, and families by ensuring access to preventive healthcare for all Texas women. Access to preventive and preconception care – including health screenings and contraception – means healthy, planned pregnancies and the early detection of cancers and other treatable conditions.

TWHC thanks our legislators for their commitment to women's healthcare. We especially want to thank you for including the Department of State Health Services Exceptional Item #2 titled Combat Maternal Mortality and Morbidity in Texas in the House base budget. The TWHC respectfully offers the following information in support of the DSHS Exceptional Item:

1) Support the Department of State Health Services Exceptional Item to Combat Maternal Mortality and Morbidity in Texas

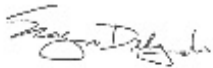
The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) put forward an exceptional item request for funding to implement maternal safety initiatives statewide, to implement a maternal care coordination pilot for women, and to increase public awareness and prevention activities. These initiatives will help Texas keep moms and babies healthy and are in line with the recommendations released by the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force.ⁱ Investing in women's preventive healthcare today is crucial given the Texas maternal health landscape. In the past two years, researchers discovered alarming increases in Texas' maternal mortality rates. The Department of State Health Services conducted further research and found some inaccuracies to the data; however, after an enhanced assessment, they noted there was still an increase in maternal mortality numbers.ⁱⁱ Moreover, the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force found that the majority of maternal deaths occurred 60-days postpartum and that black women bear the greatest risk for maternal death.ⁱⁱⁱ Although there are many factors that contributed to these poor health

outcomes and racial disparities, we know that one of the best strategies we have to reverse these trends is to ensure women have access to healthcare before, during, and after pregnancy – as recommended by the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force.^{iv}

The Legislature's ongoing commitment to women's healthcare has been essential to the programmatic success experienced thus far. Continued commitment to women's health is critical to the health of Texas women and families.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or if we can provide further information, please contact me at (210) 223-4589 or EDelgado@TexasWHC.org.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evelyn Delgado". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Evelyn Delgado
Chair, Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition Steering Committee Members

Texas Medical Association
District XI (Texas) American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Texas Academy of Family Physicians
Texas Association of Community Health Centers
Methodist Healthcare Ministries
Teaching Hospitals of Texas
Women's Health and Family Planning Association of Texas
Texans Care for Children
Center for Public Policy Priorities
Chair - Healthy Futures of Texas

Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition General Members

Access Esperanza Clinics Inc.
Amistad Community Health Center
Austin Advanced Practice Nurses
Austin Physicians for Social Responsibility
AWHONN Texas
Brazos Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.
Brazos Valley Nurse Practitioner Association
Cardea
Center for Community Health, UNTHSC
Centering Health Institute
Central Texas Nurse Practitioners
Children's Hospital Association of Texas
Coalition for Nurses in Advanced Practice
Coastal Bend Advanced Practice Nurses
Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation
Community Healthcare Center
Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse Midwives
Department of Ob/Gyn of UNTHSC and the ForHER
Institute
El Buen Samaritano
El Centro de Corazón
El Paso Area Advanced Practice Nurse Association
Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley
Fort Worth Region Nurse Practitioners
Haven Health
Hill Country Advanced Practice Nurses & Physicians
Assistants Association
Houston Area Chapter of NAPNAP
Houston Area Nurse Practitioners
League of Women Voters of Texas
Legacy Community Health Services
Lone Star Family Health Center
March of Dimes – Texas
Mental Health America of Greater Houston
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in
Women's Health
National Council of Jewish Women—Texas State
Policy Advocacy Network
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
North Harris Montgomery Advanced Practice Nurse
Society

North Texas Alliance to Reduce Teen Pregnancy
North Texas Nurse Practitioners
Panhandle Nurse Practitioner Association
Pasadena Health Center
People's Community Clinic
Port Arthur Housing Authority
Pregnancy and Postpartum Health Alliance of Texas
SALVERE (Striving to Achieve Literacy via
Education, Research, and Engagement)
San Antonio Metropolitan Health District
San Antonio Nurses in Advanced Practice
Schneider Communications
South Plains Nurse Practitioner Association
South Texas Family Planning & Health Corp.
Southeast Texas Nurse Practitioner Associates
Special Health Resources
St. David's Foundation
Susan Wolfe and Associates, LLC
Texas Association of Community Health Plans
Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
Texas Council on Family Violence
Texas Health Institute
Texas Hospital Association
Texas Medical Association Alliance
Texas Nurse Practitioners
Texas Nurses Association
Texas Oral Health Coalition
Texas Pediatric Society
Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry
Texas Women's Foundation
The Contraceptive Initiative
The SAFE Alliance
The Women's Fund for Health Education and
Resiliency
United Methodist Women
University Health System
Valley AIDS Council
Women's & Men's Health Services of the Coastal
Bend, Inc.
Young Invincibles

ⁱ Texas Department of State Health Services.
“Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force and
Department of State Health Services Joint Biennial
Report.” September 2018. Accessed at
<https://docs.house.gov/meetings/IF/IF14/20180927/108724/HHRG-115-IF14-20180927-SD022.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Texas Department of State Health Services.
“Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force and

Department of State Health Services Joint Biennial
Report.” September 2018. Accessed at
<https://docs.house.gov/meetings/IF/IF14/20180927/108724/HHRG-115-IF14-20180927-SD022.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid

^{iv} Ibid