

# CODE RED

THE CRITICAL CONDITION OF HEALTH IN TEXAS

## CODE RED RECOMMENDATIONS LEGISLATIVE REVIEW AND SUMMARY

**Recommendation One: Texas should adopt a principle that all individuals living in Texas should have access to adequate levels of health care.**

- Provides CHIP program enhancements (HB 109)
- Extensive Medicaid reform in Texas (SB 10)
- Funding for resolution of FREW v. Hawkins lawsuit (HB 15)

**Recommendation Two: Texas should provide more resources and aggressively seek more efficient and effective methods to support health care to the indigent and uninsured with the goal of reducing rising health care costs.**

- Requires county participation above 21% - Six county region & UTMB (HB 1 rider)
- Authority to review participation in regional programs (HB 3154)
- Co-payment collection for emergency room usage for non-emergencies (SB 10)

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**Recommendations Three: A “Quality Assurance Fee” of 3% should be assessed on revenues of all hospitals and free standing surgery centers in Texas in order to obtain a federal match to enhance overall finances for provider reimbursement and the quality and efficiency of health care.**

- No funding noted

**Recommendation Four: The state should significantly increase its capacity and commitment to conduct experiments in health care delivery and funding (e.g. 1115 Waivers for R&D projects, funding pools, employer subsidies).**

- Adoption of Three Share subsidy program (SB 10)
- Healthy Texas program for small employers (SB 10)
- Numerous innovative pilot programs and studies on delivery of health care (SB 10)
- Medicaid telemedicine reimbursement (SB 24)
- Premium assistance for the uninsured (SB 10/HB 1/HB 1751)
- Monthly health insurance subsidy to parents who adopt foster children that do not qualify for Medicaid (HB 2702)
- 1115 Waiver for new and innovative programs (SB 10)

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**Recommendation Five: The concept of “virtual care coordination” for the uninsured (including them in a structured and connected system of care) should be developed by local communities and by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.**

- Electronic health/medical records establishment (SB 204/SB 40/SB 10)
- Creation of the Texas Health Services Authority (HB 1066)
- Provision of health information on drivers licenses (HB 1060)
- HHSC Pilot program for importation of eligibility information (HB 321)

**Recommendation Six: Health care institutions and other providers must contribute to increasing community based ambulatory care, which includes integrating the latest developments in disease management and other cost effective models of health care delivery that seek to improve the quality of patient care while decreasing the cost of care. Behavioral health (both mental health and substance abuse) services should be accessible to all Texans with mental illness and additional public funding should be appropriated.**

- Additional funding provided for mental health services (HB 1)
- Extensive reforms in Medicaid (SB 10)

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**Recommendation Seven: Texas must increase investment in the education and training of health professionals who will provide a significant amount of care to the uninsured and underinsured:**

- Increase in graduate medical education funding (HB 1)
- Increase in funding for professional nursing shortage program (HB 1)
- Program enhancements for nursing and allied health programs (SB 156/SB 138)
- Program for hospital based nursing education partnerships (HB3443)
- Study of increase in medical residency programs and medical residents (SB 10)
- ~~Comprehensive higher education master plan (SB 1234)~~ Vetoed
- Incentive programs for retention and graduation of nurses (SB 138)
- Tuition exemptions for nursing preceptors and their children (SB 201)
- Grants to be used to address professional nursing shortage (SB 289)
- Increase in funding for Joint Admission Medical Program (HB 1)
- Study to improve nursing curricula (SB 139)
- Loan incentive programs for first responders (HB 618)

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**Recommendation Eight: Implementation of an integrated approach to school health including an emphasis on nutrition, exercise, dental health and disease management of such problems as asthma. Expansion of the School Breakfast Program, increase of physical activity requirements to 60 minutes a day in Texas schools, and adoption of asthma management education for affected school children and support staff will improve the health of Texans.**

- Increase physical activity and require physical assessments (SB 530)
- Healthy lifestyle incentives for Medicaid recipients (SB 10)
- Coordinated health programs for ISDs in border region (HB 3618)
- Expansion of diabetes demonstration pilot program (HB 3735)
- Creation of diabetes registry (HB 2132)
- Creation of an interagency obesity council (SB 556)
- Type Two Diabetes Risk Assessment Advisory Committee (SB 415)
- Extension of use of tobacco funds to fund nursing education (SB 992)
- Establishment of the State Employee Wellness Program (HB 1297)
- Establishment of the Chronic Kidney Disease Task Force (HB 1373)

**Recommendation Nine: Academic health institutions, state and local governments, and communities, foundations and the private sector should support the development of health science center research programs to study cost effective health care and other characteristics of a high quality and efficient health system.**

- Creation of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (HB 14)
- Funding and additions to the Texas Emerging Technology Fund (HB 1188)

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**Recommendation Ten: Texas should adequately invest in public health programs, including research and community health, at the state and local level.**

- ~~Provide funding for expansion of Schools of Public Health (HB 1)~~  
Vetoed
- Healthy lifestyle incentives for Medicaid recipients (SB 10)
- ~~Extensive funding of special items to address public health issues (HB 1)~~  
Vetoed
- Implementation of life saving techniques and devices (HB 92)