

Preserve Access to Care



April 2015

TMA's Healthy Vision 2020 Agenda

Lawmakers are taking important steps to shore up Texas' physician workforce, to improve mental health services for adults and children, and to ensure low-income women have access to preventive care. We applaud the state's budget writers working on House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 2 for recognizing the importance of preserving Medicaid payments for primary care, growing graduate medical education (GME), and improving Texas' mental health services and women's health programs.

- Increase physicians' Medicaid payments to reflect the cost of actually providing the service
- Fund existing mental health/substance abuse service levels, and invest new dollars towards substance abuse treatment and prevention
- Support preventive care for low-income women

Improve Texas' Physician Workforce

Texas needs continued and stable state support for both critical parts of a physician's education and training to help cultivate future generations of Texas physicians.

Almost half of Texas medical school graduates left the state for residency training in 2014. Texas invests \$176,000 in each medical student's four years of education. We are concerned about the state's ability to protect that growing investment with enough GME positions to meet demand.



TMA Strongly Supports

In the House 2016-17 Budget:

(HB 1 by Rep. John Otto — Passed House)

- 460 million in general revenue funds to restore Medicaid payments to Medicare levels for certain primary care physicians and services.
- \$20 million to increase the number of women who can be treated via the Expanded Primary Health Care Program.
- \$15 million to expand the state's autism intervention program.
- \$17 million for early intervention and treatment for pregnant women with substance use disorders to reduce incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome.
- \$20 million for surveillance of Ebola and other infectious diseases.
- \$60 million to improve state hospital funding.
- \$11 million to maintain tobacco cessation programs (Quitline and tobacco prevention programs for youth and young adults).
- 14-percent increase in GME formula funding to help offset a portion of teaching costs for residency training.

In the Senate Draft 2016-17 Budget:

(SB 2 by Sen. Jane Nelson — Pending in Senate Finance Committee)

- \$41 million to grow and improve GME expansion programs begun in 2003.
- Funding of GME expansion programs at \$75,000 per resident per year for an estimated 125 new GME positions a year.
- \$16 million additional for the Family Medicine Residency Program.
- \$3 million to restore the Statewide Primary Care Preceptorship Program.
- \$60 million in enhanced funding for women's preventive health care.
- \$13 million to expand availability of local mental health crisis services.
- \$8 million to increase substance abuse prevention initiatives.
- \$3 million increase to prevent and treat sexually transmitted diseases.

Senate Bill 18 by Senator Nelson

(Approved by Senate Finance Committee — Pending full Senate vote)

- Would improve Texas' physician workforce by allocating \$41 million for GME expansions and \$19 million for primary care workforce development.
- Works toward goal of 1.1 entry residency slots for each Texas medical school graduate.
- Establishes a permanent fund for GME in late 2017 as an important future source of funding for residency training.



Healthy Vision 2020

For more information, call TMA at (512) 370-1300.