Bill List for the 88th Legislative Session
HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

Key Takeaways:

1. Texas should pursue an “all options on the table” strategy for increasing the number of insured Texans, including providing new Texas moms with extended eligibility, increasing current eligibility thresholds for low-income Texans, and improving take-up among eligible, but unenrolled Texans.

2. Texas must capitalize on the transparency revolution, ensuring that price transparency rules are enforced, and eliminating remaining barriers to get useful information on price and quality to patients at the point of decision.

3. Texas needs to address the negative impacts of highly concentrated markets, using a light-touch method of prohibiting anti-competitive contracting practices that drive up prices without corresponding improvements to outcomes.

4. Texas has an opportunity to improve rural access to primary care in shortage areas by expanding practice options for nurses and pharmacists.

5. Texas can improve the quality of state-managed health care plans to reduce net costs paid by current and retired teachers. Texas can optimize ERS benefits to slow cost growth for the state without shifting costs to employees.

Bills To Monitor:

⇒ HB 12 (Rose) – increasing postpartum Medicaid coverage from six to twelve months.
⇒ HB 25 (Talarico) – Prescription drug importation.
⇒ HB 617/SB 251 (Darby/Alvarado) – EMS telemedicine pilot.
⇒ HB 700 (Oliverson) and SB 344 (Johnson) – state-based health insurance exchange.
⇒ HB 711 (Frank) – anti-competitive contracting practices.
⇒ HB 1105/SB 749 (Price/Flores) – pharmacist vaccinations.
⇒ HB 1364/SB 583 (Munoz, Jr. /Hughes) and HB 2002 (Oliverson) – smart shopper protections.
⇒ HB 1599 (Bucy) – express lane eligibility determination.
Bills to Monitor:

⇒ HB 1692/SB 1275 (Frank/Hancock) – facility fees.
⇒ HB 1973/SB 490 (Caroline Harris/Hughes) – itemized billing.
⇒ HB 2414 (Frank) – allowing health plans to provide incentives to use high-value providers.
⇒ HB 2983/SB 1675 (Oliverson/Johnson) – healthy foods pilot.
⇒ HB 3218 (Klick) – price estimates.
⇒ HB 3351 (Caroline Harris) – provider quality transparency.
⇒ HB 3414/SB 2045 (Oliverson/Hancock) – All-Payer Claims Database.
⇒ HB 4071 (Klick) and SB 1700 (Blanco) – nurse practitioner scope of practice.
⇒ SB 945 (Kolkhorst) – price transparency.

Nearly 7 in 10
Texans believe eligibility for Medicaid should be increased to make single individuals earning $13,000 a year or less.

90% of voters support government action to prevent business tactics that reduce competition. (Arnold Ventures polling)

81% of Texans support allowing highly trained nurses to provide more primary care health services in shortage areas.

85% of large employers believe a greater governmental role is needed to help them contain health care costs. (KFF Employer Survey)