

### 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.

**18%** of Texans are uninsured, representing nearly 5 million people

**59%** of Texans have **skipped needed health care due to cost**, including 56% of Texans with insurance

**2.5x** Texas employer-based insurance, on average, pays over **2.5 times what Medicare does** for the same service

**200+** Texas counties are **federally designated primary care shortage areas** in their entirety

**1,228,212** Covered lives in state managed health plans for agency employees (ERS) and teachers (TRS)

### 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 (Oliveron)** 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 (Oliveron)** – 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**

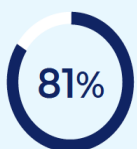
Texans believe eligibility for Medicaid should be increased to make single individuals earning \$13,000 a year or less.



they should be informed *how much medical treatment will cost before they receive it.*



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



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



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