



# EL PASO COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

## 89TH Texas Legislative Session

### LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



El Paso County Hospital District includes University Medical Center of El Paso (only District taxing entity), El Paso Children's Hospital and El Paso Health, our community health plan.

## 1 HOSPITAL DISTRICT FINANCING

- A. Support the continued state funding of health and human services programs, including maintaining or increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates.
- B. Protect the Special Taxing Unit exemption for hospital districts at the current eight percent rollback rate.
- C. Protect hospital district's current bond authority and ability to utilize certificates of obligation to help finance local community healthcare services and access.
- D. Support measures aimed at providing property tax relief through equitable state funding for hospital districts.
- E. Support the 1115 Waiver and state-directed payment programs to maintain critical healthcare services and hospital operations.
- F. Oppose site-neutral and facility fee prohibition policies that would hinder access to outpatient healthcare.
- G. Maintain or increase dedicated funding for trauma and emergency infrastructure, including the trauma and safety-net hospital add-ons.
- H. Fully fund Texas' Poison Control Program as requested by the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) in its Legislative Appropriations Request.
- I. Preserve the children's hospital's Medicaid-only designation and oppose altering the definition of a children's hospital.

## 2 HOSPITAL DISTRICT-OWNED HEALTH PLANS

- A. Protect local, hospital district-owned health plans preferred ability to participate in the state's Medicaid managed care contracts in their home service area.
- B. Oppose additional measures that require more prescriptive and cumbersome managed care organization (MCO) prior authorization functions, which make it difficult for local plans to continue to design successful initiatives aimed at addressing specific needs within their local communities.

## 3 HEALTHCARE COVERAGE & ACCESS

- A. Support continued flexibilities and investments to expand virtual visits, including through audio-only, telehealth, and telemedicine.
- B. Support investments in expanding access to broadband and high-speed, quality connectivity.
- C. Support healthcare coverage options that reduce the number of uninsured and underinsured Texans.
- D. Protect the 340B drug program from contracting and reimbursement limitations enforced by drug manufacturers and third-party payors.
- E. Support continued investments in expanding cancer care in the West Texas region.

## 4 HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE & OPERATIONS

- A. Maintain Medicaid Graduate Medical Education (GME) payments and support increased funding for residencies.
- B. Expand and invest in a sustainable healthcare workforce by increasing capacity through loan repayment, grants, and educational programs along with other financial investments to help alleviate the workforce shortage.
- C. Support a healthcare entity's ability to develop and implement policies to protect its patients from vaccine-preventable diseases.
- D. Support public health policies that reduce vaccine preventable diseases in Texas.
- E. Maintain the ability of hospital districts to educate and advocate for our health systems and communities.
- F. Support investments and policies that protect healthcare entities from cybersecurity threats/attacks.
- G. Support patient-centered policies that help advance the responsible, ethical, and safe use of artificial intelligence in healthcare settings aimed at improving healthcare outcomes and streamlining operations.

## 5 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- A. Support policies, coverage, and funding to enhance inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services and capacity for children, adolescents, and adults in El Paso County.
- B. Support policies, coverage, and funding to enhance inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services, including partial hospitalization for children, adolescents, and adults in El Paso County.



November 2024

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