



Texas Essential
Healthcare Partnerships

**11 Texas Congressional Democrats Ask HHS and CMS to
Restore Texas' Hospital Safety Net**

AUSTIN – Eleven Texas Congressional Democrats today asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to quickly restore funding to Texas' hospital safety net. Due to the ongoing 1115 Medicaid Waiver negotiations, Texas' Directed Payment Programs (DPPs), which support basic care for Texas Medicaid beneficiaries and amount to over \$10 billion annually, have been frozen since September 1, 2021.

In a letter to HHS Secretary Becerra and CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure, Congressional members state that “these payment programs are critical to protecting our most vulnerable Texans and to preserving our safety net.”

In addition to asking the federal government to unfreeze this funding, the delegation asked for a meeting to “discuss the importance of these programs to nearly 5 million medically underserved individuals in the state, particularly communities of color, and those hardest hit by the pandemic.” The letter concluded by stating, “in the meantime, we hope that CMS and Texas will agree on a short-term solution to allow Texas providers to continue to ensure the health and well-being of all Texas communities, as you continue to negotiate on the approval of the outstanding DPPs and a sustainable overall waiver renewal.”

The letter was signed by the following Texas Democrats:

- Congressman Collin Allred
- Congressman Joaquin Castro
- Congressman Henry Cuellar
- Congresswoman Veronica Escobar
- Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher
- Congressman Al Green
- Congressman Vincente Gonzalez
- Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee
- Congressman Eddie Bernice Johnson
- Congressman Marc Veasey
- Congressman Filemon Vela

To read the full letter, [click here](#).