



Texas Essential
Healthcare Partnerships

Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Calls on President Biden to Reinstate Funding for Texas Hospital Safety Net

AUSTIN -The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops (TCCB) joined with the Texas Essential Healthcare Partnerships (TEHP) and political leaders in calling on the Biden Administration to immediately reinstate federal funding for Texas' hospital safety net. Negotiations over Texas' 1115 Medicaid waiver have resulted in funding for Texas' Directed Payment Programs (DPPs) being halted despite the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) maintaining discretion and authority to approve the payments regardless of the status of the litigation.

DPPs support basic healthcare functions for the uninsured and the underinsured and have been frozen since September 1. These programs are vital to assisting those in Texas' urban and rural areas and continued delay of these programs could jeopardize more than \$10 billion in annual Medicaid funding for the state.

In its letter to President Biden, the TCCB points out that, "Texas' most vulnerable residents—including the minority communities we serve—face a menacingly growing risk of losing access to care each day that funding is not restored."

The letter ends by stating: "...this stalemate must end. We urge you to act immediately to direct your administration to quickly approve the DPPs and withdraw any objections to the LPPFs. The viability of our safety net rests on your decision."

"The time for political gamesmanship is over," said TEHP President, Don Lee. "Millions of Texans rely on this hospital safety net and as the TCCB points out – the stalemate must end. Vulnerable populations are in need of the basic health services these DPPs provide and TEHP is grateful for TCCB's efforts to restore this critical funding."

To read The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops' letter, click [here](#).