



**Texas Essential**  
Healthcare Partnerships

**ICYMI: Restore funding of Medicaid Directed Payment Programs: El Paso delegation**

EL PASO – In case you missed it, the El Paso delegation wrote an op-ed in the *El Paso Times* last week highlighting the need for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to immediately restore funding of Texas’ Directed Payment Programs. The opinion, authored by Senator César J. Blanco and Representatives Joe Moody, Mary González, Lina Ortega, Art Fierro, and Claudia Ordaz Perez, points out that in the El Paso area alone, 18 hospitals receive \$65 million each year.

*Excerpts of the op-ed can be found below. To read the full article, [click here](#).*

“Like President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, we believe health care is a right, not a privilege. And we believe that the ACA is the best way to achieve that goal.

...

“In the meantime, we must ensure low-income and vulnerable Texans are not left behind. That is why the funding of the Medicaid Direct Payment Programs (DPPs), currently financed through the 1115 Medicaid Waiver that provides money to hospitals to ensure services like maternal care, must be restored immediately.

...

“As our state and federal administrations have been locked in debate over the extension of Texas’ Medicaid waiver, the courts have directed state and federal agencies to enter into extensive negotiations.

...

“In our city alone, 18 hospitals receive approximately \$65 million each year from these programs to provide a safety net for Texas’ most vulnerable. Every day of the stalemate means more essential health care services for low-income Texans are curtailed, threatening access to care for the most vulnerable members of our community and widening the already inexcusable gap of equitable access to care for minorities in this state.

...

“They are why the Biden Administration must find a path to approve these essential replacement funding programs as quickly as possible while continuing to work with Texas to establish a workable long-term demonstration waiver program.

...

“President Biden was instrumental in passing the ACA, and we are committed to working with him to expand this program in Texas. However, we humbly ask that he instruct his administration to look out for our vulnerable populations by restoring funding to the vital DPPs while we work on this goal. The president has always been a champion for low-income

Americans, and we hope that he will cement that legacy by ensuring our mothers, daughters, sons, and grandparents do not go without care.”