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Texas Essential
Healthcare Partnerships

TEHP Lauds Congressman Filemon Vela’s Efforts to Resume Federal Funding for Texas’ Safety Net As 1115 Waiver Negotiations Continue

AUSTIN – Texas Essential Healthcare Partnerships (TEHP) today lauded Congressman Filemon Vela’s (D-TX) efforts to ensure critical funding for Texas healthcare safety net which provide critical care to the state’s uninsured.

In a letter to United State Health and Human Services Secretary, Xavier Becerra and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services leadership, Congressman Vela requests the federal government resume funding for Texas’ Medicaid managed care Direct Payment Programs (DPPs) which has been stalled since September 1 because of ongoing negotiations between Texas and the federal government over Medicaid’s 1115 waiver.

As the Congressman points out in his letter, “annual financial support from these programs totaled \$6.3 billion comprising a critical component of our state’s safety net.”

Those programs provide invaluable supplemental funding for services provided to Texas’ Medicaid beneficiaries, such as mothers delivering babies, children receiving routine care and/or necessary medical procedures and grandparents managing chronic health conditions. These programs have an outsized impact in border and rural communities. The non-federal share of these programs comes from sources that are well-established, permissible and used in many other states, including for example California.

“Texas is fortunate to have Congressman Vela fighting for the most vulnerable in our communities,” said Don Lee, President of TEHP. “Without this funding, basic healthcare functions for low-income populations are going unmet. TEHP supports efforts by the Congressman and others to restore funding for to support delivery of these critical services while negotiations continue over the 1115 waiver and encourages the federal government and the state to work together to restore this critical funding grant.”

To read Congressman Vela’s full letter, click [here](#).