

2019 Legislative Priorities

Strengthen Texas Medicaid and CHIP

- Improve network adequacy by increasing Medicaid rates to Medicare levels
- Streamline Medicaid managed care by eliminating unnecessary administrative burdens
- Improve access to contraception for teens enrolled in the CHIP program

Invest in Early Childhood Programs

- Fully fund our Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program to ensure all eligible children receive services

Increase Access to Mental Health Services

- Create a Texas Child Psychiatry Access Network (CPAN) to support primary care pediatricians and alleviate mental health workforce challenges

Enhance Newborn Screening

- Fully fund the Texas Newborn Screening Program to test children for X-ALD
- Address the burden for primary care pediatricians billing for newborn screening kits

Implement Best Practice Immunization Policy

- Address the rising numbers of exemptions and delinquencies from school vaccination requirements
- Continue to protect our state's immunization policies and educate lawmakers about the importance of community immunity

Refocus and Improve Our Child Welfare System

- Invest in the creation and implementation of a strategic plan to maximize federal dollars made available through the Family First Prevention Services Act

Alleviate Child Abuse and Neglect

- Invest in regional coordinators to improve the efficacy and capacity of local Child Fatality Review Teams
- Increase funding for MEDCARES grant program to bolster capacity for assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of child abuse and neglect in existing MEDCARES sites

Reduce Childhood Injury

- Clarify current state statute to ensure children sit rear facing in their car seat until age 2
- Promote awareness of safe firearm storage practices

Promote Child Health and Wellness

- Ensure children served by licensed child care providers receive nutritious foods and optimal physical activity to develop lifelong healthy habits
- Ensure all Texas schools provide adequate, quality physical education
- Raise the tobacco and e-cigarette sale age to 21 to reduce tobacco use in teens and young adults

Continue to Invest in the Medical Education Pipeline

- Maintain funding for the Statewide Preceptorship Program to encourage more students to practice in primary care fields including pediatrics

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