



TEXAS MUST ACCEPT FEDERAL MEDICAID FUNDING

Texas leads the nation in the number of people without health insurance: 5.4 million Texans or nearly one in five. Yet loyalty to far-right ideology has “**Trumped**” common sense, as the Republicans who have dominated Texas government for 25 years have turned down \$100 billion in federal Medicaid funding during Governor Abbot’s tenure alone. **This deprives millions of low-income people of coverage and drives up the cost of health care for everyone else**, since uninsured folks must seek care at facilities that must, of necessity, pass the cost along to the rest of us. And, hoping to avoid the expense of care, these folks postpone treatment until their malady is much more expensive to treat, seeking help in emergency facilities where they likely have a worse outcome than if they had sought treatment early on.

Texas, with a maternal mortality rate well above the national average, must strengthen measures ensuring maternal health. In addition to changing its Medicaid eligibility threshold and accepting federal Medicaid funds so more will have coverage, it should lengthen to one year the period after birth in which a mother may receive post-partum coverage.

Health insurance plan pre-authorization should not be required of a physician providing routine medical services, a requirement which can deny or delay needed treatment and, even though the majority of requests are granted, drives up the administrative cost of medical care.

State policy regarding every form of health insurance should prohibit denial of coverage based on preexisting illnesses.

Surprise out-of-network medical bills should continue to be prevented by the new state law on this subject, which implements dispute resolution. And arbitration costs must be reduced.