



**TEXAS MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION**

Physicians Caring for Texans

Texas Public Health Coalition: A Healthy Texas Depends on Healthy Texans

Support the Texas Public Health Coalition's 2009 Legislative Agenda

2009 Coalition Recommendation	Filed Legislation*
<p>Support funding for the Texas Education Agency's efforts to provide rigorous implementation of coordinated school health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Texas Education Agency Legislative Appropriations Request ✓ <i>SB283 Nelson, relating to the membership and activities of local school health advisory councils (SHAC)-strengthens the role of the SHAC by requiring councils to meet at least 4 times each year, and provide a report of activities to the school board.</i>
<p>Support the Department of Agriculture's exceptional item request to promote and reward the implementation of best practices in nutrition education in schools and early childhood environments, as part of the collaborative effort with Texas Education Agency and Department of State Health Services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Texas Dept. of Agriculture Legislative Appropriations Request ✓ <i>SB282 Nelson, relating to grant programs to provide nutrition education to children --would establish program to award grants to school districts for best practices in nutrition.</i>
<p>Support legislation and funding to require and implement physical activity programming in early childhood environments and all grade levels and support school environments that promote physical education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Texas Education Agency Legislative Appropriations Request ✓ <i>HB 1877 Alvarado, relating to physical activity requirements for students enrolled in public school prekindergarten program- requires prekindergarten students to participate in daily physical activity.</i> ✓ <i>HB 159 Deshotel, relating to unstructured activity requirements for public elementary schools — requires elementary schools to provide recess for at least 20 minutes each day.</i> ✓ <i>SB 890 Nelson; HB 1855 JDavis, relating to physical activity requirements for students in public schools—requires all students in grades 6-8 to participate in 30 minutes of daily physical activity.</i>
<p>Support legislation and funding for the Texas Department of Agriculture's Public School Nutrition Policy efforts to meet or exceed the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans for all reimbursable and non-reimbursable meals.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Support funding for the Department of State Health Services' exceptional item request to reduce the impact of chronic diseases through prevention of obesity and heart disease and stroke.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dept. of State Health Services Legislative Appropriations Request

Improve Immunization Rates in Texas

Immunization among Texas children has improved – Texas ranks 22nds nationally. But rising vaccine costs and natural disasters are only two of the barriers that threaten Texas’ success in preventing the spread of preventable communicable disease.

2009 Coalition Recommendation	Filed Legislation*
<p>Expand the state’s current immunization registry, ImmTrac, so that it captures immunization records throughout the lifespan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>SB346 Nelson, relating to information submitted to and maintained in the immunization registry after an individual becomes an adult – provides procedures to establish a lifelong registry in Texas.</i> ✓ <i>SB466 Zaffirini, relating to excluding a child from the immunization registry – changes the current “opt in” immunization registry to an “opt out” registry.</i>
<p>Support legislation to allow the Department of State Health Services to exchange information regarding communicable diseases (or the suspicion of communicable diseases) with other state or local health departments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>SB347 Nelson; HB1879 JDavis, relating to the receipt and release of immunization information by the immunization registry in connection with a disaster – allows Texas to share immunization information with other health authorities in the event of a declared disaster.</i>
<p>Create a deduction within the state’s business activity tax for the cost of vaccines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>HB 1994 McCall; SB 889 Nelson, relating to a deduction under the franchise tax for physicians who administer vaccines- allows physicians to deduct the cost of the vaccine from the state’s business tax.</i>
<p>Support studies to examine the costs and identify the vaccines necessary to vaccinate workers that are mobilized as a result of their profession during a natural or man-made disaster.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>SB 1328 Nelson, relating to a study on the feasibility of providing vaccines to first responders deployed to a disaster area-creates a pilot study to examine the feasibility of providing vaccines to emergency responders during a disaster.</i>
<p>Support a community-based pilot project to provide influenza vaccinations in the school setting using state purchased vaccines and evaluates costs, procedures, effectiveness, and impact on the medical home.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>SB424 Van de Putte; HB506 DHoward, relating to the establishment and implementation of a school-based influenza vaccination pilot program. Establishes pilot project to examine the costs and benefits of a school-based vaccination program, including analysis on impact of private providers.</i>

Make Texas Smoke-Free

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the state. More than 24,000 Texans die each year from tobacco-related illnesses. To reverse this trend, the state immediately must embrace coordinated, comprehensive approaches to reducing smoking and protecting Texans from exposure to secondhand smoke. Reducing the use of tobacco saves lives.

2009 Coalition Recommendation	Filed Legislation*
Support comprehensive statewide smoke-free legislation.	✓ <i>HB5 Crownover; SB544 Ellis, related to the elimination of smoking in all workplaces and public places, providing penalties – prohibits smoking in all public places, places of employment, sports arenas and seating areas of outdoor events.</i>
Support funding to enable the Texas Department of State Health Services to implement CDC-recommended comprehensive statewide tobacco control program that would include state, community, and school-based intervention programs.	✓ Dept. of State Health Services Legislative Appropriations Request
Support funding for and a directive to make comprehensive smoking cessation programs (including pharmacological therapy) available to all employees and beneficiaries of the state of Texas through the Employees Retirement System of Texas.	Pending
Support funding from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas to promote policies and programs aimed at reducing tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke.	✓ <i>HB 1358 Keffer & Rose; SB 895 Nelson, related to the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas- amends the Research Institute statute to enhance efficiency.</i>

Members of the Texas Public Health Coalition

Texas Medical Association; Texas Academy of Family Physicians; American Heart Association; American Lung Association; United Ways of Texas; Texas Association of Local Health Officials; Texas Parent Teacher Association; Texas Public Health Association; Catholic Health Association of Texas; Texas Association of Municipal Health Officials; American Cancer Society of Texas; Coalition for Nurses in Advanced Practice; Texas Pediatric Society; Texas Renal Coalition; Texas Health Institute; Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke; Texas Nurses Association; Children’s Hospital Association of Texas; Health Professionals for Clean Air.

Texas Dietetic Association (endorsed “Improve Healthy Eating & Physical Activity”)
Houston Area Immunization Partnership (endorsed “Improve Immunization Rates”)

Resource: Michael & Susan Dell Center for Advancement of Healthy Living.

*As of March 6, 2009