

TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH COALITION

Report Card 83rd Texas Legislature

Look at what we accomplished together! It's been an excellent legislative session on a number of our Public Health Coalition priorities. Interim efforts at improved education and dialogue with policy makers paid off with significant wins on the public health front. While more needs to be done on each of these critical topics, we think you will agree that much was achieved.

Vaccinations are Important for all Texans

TPHC PRIORITIES	RELATED LEGISLATION	OUTCOME/LAST ACTION
Support the state's legislative appropriations request for immunizations, especially for the adult safety net.	★ SB 1 – State appropriations bill	★ SB 1 – Signed by Gov. Rick Perry – \$17.9 million in additional funds appropriated to Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for the adult vaccination safety net
Amend the meningitis vaccination law to align more closely with Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations.	★ SB 62/HB 565 – Vaccination for bacterial meningitis for higher ed students HB 2711/SB 1054 – Bacterial meningitis of public school and higher ed students HB 1611 – Bacterial meningitis and higher ed	★ SB 62 – Signed by Governor Perry HB 2711/SB 1054 – No hearings HB 1611 – No hearing
Allow minor parents (who can consent to their child's vaccination) the ability to consent to their own vaccination.	★ SB 63 – Consent to vaccination by a minor parent HB 1340 – Consent to immunization by minors	★ SB 63 – Signed by Governor Perry HB 1340 – Passed by House
Support the ability of health care professionals to deduct the cost of purchasing vaccine from the state's margins tax.	HB 1310 (Language added to HB 500) – Vaccines and franchise tax ★ HB 500 – Vaccines and franchise tax	HB 1310 – Amended to HB 500 ★ HB 500 – Signed by Governor Perry
Support a statewide disease prevention and health quality initiative to improve vaccination rates among early-childhood care providers.	★ SB 64/HB 1150 – Vaccination of child care workers	★ SB 64 – Signed by Governor Perry
Change ImmTrac, the state's immunization registry, to an opt-out system.	HB 772/SB 40 – Change ImmTrac to opt out	HB 772 – Passed by House
Lengthen the amount of time allowed to age 26 to secure the required consent for a patient record to stay in the registry.	HB 771 – ImmTrac consent process	HB 771 – Issue addressed in HB 772

★ Bills passed

“For the 83rd Texas legislative session, the Public Health Coalition accepted an invitation from legislative leaders to help identify legislation that would reduce costs to the state and improve the public’s health. Together, representing thousands of Texas health care providers including physicians, nurses, hospitals, major health advocates, and policy professionals across the state, we identified the biggest threats to health in Texas and successfully advocated for evidence-based public health strategies that will improve health and reduce the fiscal impact on our state.”

— Jason V. Terk, MD, FAAP
Texas Medical Association

Get Texans Moving and Eating Healthy

TPHC PRIORITIES	RELATED LEGISLATION	OUTCOME/LAST ACTION
Preserve funding for the School Health Network within the DSHS budget while also supporting the Chronic Disease Prevention exceptional item related to obesity prevention.	★ SB 1 – State appropriations bill HB 128 – Grant program	★ SB 1 – Signed by Governor Perry – <i>no additional appropriations for chronic disease; \$5 million/yr for the Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke</i> HB 128 – No hearing
Restore a half-credit of physical education in high school as well as health as a requirement for graduation.	HB 275 – PE credits for high school graduation HB 276 – Health credit for high school graduation HB 277/SB 525 – PE requirements for students SB 684 – Reduces frequency of FitnessGram HB 1156 – Eliminates FitnessGram	HB 275 – No hearing HB 276 – No hearing HB 277/SB 525 – No hearings SB 684 – Passed House committee HB 1156 – Left pending in House committee
Strengthen the Texas Education Agency’s pre-K health standards related to nutrition and physical activity. Allocate a specified percent of the Texas Department of Agriculture’s health and nutrition grants for programs serving young children.	★ SB 1 – State appropriations bill HB 217 – Restricts access to sugar-sweetened beverages in schools HB 735 – Tax on certain sugar-sweetened beverages and use of tax revenue SB 1786 – Restriction of certain foods in schools ★ SB 376 – Increases number of Texas students under the national school breakfast program	★ SB 1 – Signed by Governor Perry – <i>includes \$5 million for TEA to administer FitnessGram; additional funds for assessment of results</i> HB 217 – Vetoed by Governor Perry HB 735 – No hearing SB 1786 – No hearing ★ SB 376 – Signed by Governor Perry
Use local school health advisory councils to make policy recommendations to school districts concerning the types and quantity of sugar-sweetened beverages sold in school-sited vending machines and à la carte offerings.	★ HB 1018 – Includes goals for physical activity and fitness in school plans	★ HB 1018 – Signed by Governor Perry
Support policies that address food insecurity and obesity as they relate to a lack of access to affordable and healthy foods, including the use of vacant state land for community gardens and incentives for private landowners to offer a portion of their land for the same purpose.	SB 924 – Sets state planning goals on increasing access to nutritious foods and facilitating obesity prevention.	SB 924 – Left pending in Senate committee
Support the establishment of nutritional content standards and guidelines that set local food procurement targets for foods offered via vending machines and food service programs located in state facilities and agencies.		

Texans Want Texas to be Smoke-Free

TPHC PRIORITIES	RELATED LEGISLATION	OUTCOME/LAST ACTION
Support comprehensive statewide smoke-free legislation that eliminates exposure to secondhand smoke in all indoor workplaces in Texas.	SB 86/HB 400 – Statewide smoking ban legislation	SB 86/HB 400 – No hearings
Support evidence-based programs to discourage tobacco consumption among the public, especially youth, and to increase tobacco cessation.	<p>★ SB 1 – State appropriations bill</p> <p>★ HB 3536 – Imposes fees on the non-settling tobacco manufacturers; maintains fees on certain tobacco products</p> <p>HB 2453/SB 1136 – Imposes fees on the non-settling tobacco manufacturers</p> <p>SB 313 – Raises age for purchasing tobacco products</p>	<p>★ SB 1 – Signed by Governor Perry – <i>\$11 million added for tobacco cessation</i></p> <p>★ HB 3536 – Signed by Governor Perry</p> <p>HB 2453 – No hearing; SB 1136 left pending in Senate committee</p> <p>SB 313 – Left pending in Senate committee</p>
Oppose tobacco settlement fund securitization and repurposing of funds for anything other than smoking cessation and evidence-based prevention programs.		
Support the DSHS budget request for the operation of the state Quitline to cover all Texans who want to quit smoking.	★ SB 1 – State appropriations bill	★ SB 1 – Signed by Governor Perry – <i>\$11 million added for tobacco cessation</i>
Oppose efforts to encourage the use of smokeless tobacco and other tobacco products as less harmful products.	<p>★ HB 3536 – Imposes fees on the non-settling tobacco manufacturers; maintains fees on certain tobacco products</p> <p>HB 2453/SB 1136 – Imposes fees on the non-settling tobacco manufacturers</p>	<p>★ HB 3536 – Signed by Governor Perry</p> <p>HB 2453 – No hearing; SB 1136 – left pending in Senate committee</p>

Leadership in Cancer Prevention and Research

Support the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas' (CPRIT) funding request for cancer prevention and research. Protect Texas' public investment by ensuring a transparent funding process that includes an independent and robust scientific review on the merit of all projects.	<p>★ SB 1 – State appropriations bill</p> <p>★ SB 149 – Adds requirements to the CPRIT grant making process and other changes</p> <p>SB 150 – Would allow for certain funds to be used for debt service on CPRIT bonds</p> <p>SB 882 – Increases percent of funds that can be used for cancer prevention and control</p> <p>HB 951 – Adds requirements for CPRIT</p> <p>HB 1915 – Adopts ethics policy for CPRIT</p>	<p>★ SB 1 – Signed by Governor Perry – <i>CPRIT funding maintained</i></p> <p>★ SB 149 – Signed by Governor Perry</p> <p>SB 150 – Passed by Senate</p> <p>SB 882 – No hearing</p> <p>HB 951 – No hearing</p> <p>HB 1915 – Passed House committee</p>
Support the DSHS funding request to ensure access to breast and cervical cancer screening and detection for uninsured women.	★ SB 1 – State appropriations bill	★ SB 1 – Signed by Governor Perry – <i>breast and cervical cancer screening funding maintained; these services also increase with the Primary Health expansion</i>
Support funding for evidence-based interventions to reduce tobacco use.	<p>★ SB 1 – State appropriations bill</p> <p>★ HB 3536 – Imposes fees on the non-settling tobacco manufacturers; maintains fees on certain tobacco products</p> <p>HB 2453/SB 1136 – Imposes fees on the non-settling tobacco manufacturers</p> <p>SB 313 – Raises age for purchasing tobacco products</p>	<p>★ SB 1 – Signed by Governor Perry – <i>\$11million added for tobacco cessation</i></p> <p>★ HB 3536 – Signed by Governor Perry</p> <p>HB 2453 – No hearing;</p> <p>SB 1136 – Left pending in Senate committee</p> <p>SB 313 – Left pending in Senate committee</p>
Support comprehensive statewide legislation that eliminates exposure to secondhand smoke in all indoor workplaces in Texas.	SB 86/HB 400 – Statewide smoking ban legislation	SB 86/HB 400 – No hearings

★ Bills passed

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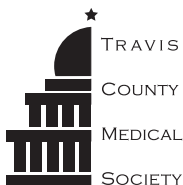
TEXAS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION



BlueCross BlueShield of Texas



THE IMMUNIZATION PARTNERSHIP



RESOURCES

