By:  Sheffield H.C.R. No. 145

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), with the support of the Legislature, has created an innovative health care safety net through the Health Care Transformation and Quality Improvement 1115 waiver; and

WHEREAS, the 1115 waiver has facilitated access to vital healthcare and mental health services, as well as substance abuse treatment, through the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program; and

WHEREAS, the DSRIP agreement with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for approximately $3 billion in annual funding permanently ends in 2021; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to negotiate a new waiver-based solution based on Texas conservative principles that retains the healthcare safety net for individuals without access to affordable health insurance, most of whom come from families with at least one breadwinner; and

WHEREAS, mental health centers and rural hospitals are particularly vulnerable to the increase in uncompensated care that will occur without a solution to the loss of DSRIP funding;

WHEREAS, CMS has asked for innovative proposals from state governments that increase budget flexibility, promote personal responsibility, and foster a cost-effective approach to treating mental illness and pre-existing conditions while increasing access to preventive and maternal health services; and

WHEREAS, while not a pre-requisite for a waiver-based solution to the loss of DSRIP funding, it is beneficial for the Legislature to demonstrate to HHSC and CMS its support for a solution that maximizes federal funding while not expanding state Medicaid enrollment or creating a new budget entitlement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas expresses its intent that HHSC negotiate with CMS to leverage enhanced federal funding and the CMS commitment to state flexibility to develop a non-entitlement coverage model based on the private market through a new waiver or a revision of the current waiver; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Legislature expresses its intent that the new or revised waiver be renegotiated within a timeframe that minimizes or eliminates any disruption to the healthcare safety net caused by the loss of DSRIP funding.