



**Texas House of Representatives
Responses to Human Services Committee
Requests for Information**

Interim Charge 2.2 - 2.5: Review how Texas is preparing for state and federal budgetary changes that impact the state's health programs, including:

2.2) The next phase of the 1115 Healthcare Transformation and Quality Improvement Program Waiver;

UTRGV respectfully requests that the legislature and Texas Health and Human Services Commission continue the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program under the 1115 Medicaid Waiver for at least one additional year as the state works on a transition plan. DSRIP has been instrumental in UTRGV's ability to establish the 16 residency and fellowship programs that its School of Medicine currently has with regional hospitals. Through our residency programs and new clinical sites, UTRGV's School of Medicine has been able to expand and improve care to underserved areas in the state.

The last funding cycle is set for FY21 and without these programs, there will be a significant funding gap for FY22 and beyond. As the state considers the DSRIP transition, we would strongly advocate for a model that sustains initiatives for both the Medicaid and the large uninsured and low-income population in the Rio Grande Valley, as many individuals served by UTRGV are not eligible for current Medicaid services.

A continuation of this program will allow safety-net providers to sustain key initiatives. DSRIP has provided essential funding for non-hospital provider groups (such as UTRGV's practice plan) and allows for further growth and positive impact to the quality of clinical care in the Rio Grande Valley, a region that is medically underserved and that is growing access to healthcare with the addition of the UTRGV School of Medicine and its practice plan, UT Health RGV.

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