



THE TEXAS POLICY VOICE FOR HEALTHCARE AND BIOSCIENCE

September 28, 2020

The Honorable James Frank
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

RE: Interim Charge 2.2-2.5

Dear Chairman Frank and Honorable Committee Members,

The Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute (THBI) is the Texas public policy voice for the healthcare and bioscience industry. Our membership consists of biopharmaceutical companies, research institutions, medical device companies, economic development entities and service companies providing unparalleled networking and synergy to effectively address the public policy needs of Texas' growing life sciences community.

The Texas life sciences industry is committed to expanding the boundaries of science by discovering, developing and delivering innovative and needed medications to patients. It is the patient that is the ultimate beneficiary of such advances. The membership of THBI is dedicated to creating an environment where such discoveries flourish and thrive.

Our industry is working around the clock, racing for treatments and vaccines to stamp out the spread of COVID-19. At the same time, we are also helping lead the way, with groundbreaking, rapidly developing research that has allowed us to hold out collective hope for an end to this pandemic.

Now more than ever, we must advocate for the sound funding and policy of essential programs to ensure all patients have access to the care they need. THBI supports vital state health programs, like Medicaid and the 1115 Healthcare Transformation waiver, that provide timely access to healthcare for the most vulnerable Texans. Medicaid patients frequently have chronic health conditions that often require a broad range of medications and treatments. Our healthcare system needs to evolve and pay for treatments based on their value to patients, the system, and our society. It's the biopharmaceuticals industry's mission to find treatments and it is also our responsibility to help patients access them. We applaud the State's efforts to partner with the industry on creating innovative programs and solutions to meet the needs of all Texans.



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We extend our sincerest gratitude for the opportunity to provide feedback and look forward to partnering with you during the 87th Legislative Session. It is critical that all Texans have access to needed medicines and treatments that allow patients to live longer, healthier, and more productive lives. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me directly at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Tom Kowalski
President & CEO