

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1427

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: March 25, 2021 8:00 AM

Adrienne Trigg, Government Relations
TexMep Texas Medical Equipment Providers Association
Austin, TX

My name is Adrienne Trigg and I represent Texas medical equipment providers association for the state of Texas, TEXMEP. We are testifying ON the bill.

Texas Medical Equipment Providers Association (TexMEP) is a non-profit state association of DME/HME, respiratory, and rehab equipment providers serving communities in Texas.

TexMep's statewide association of home medical supplier professionals provide primary function life-sustaining specialty medical equipment for the medical home. We are the boots on the ground for the medical home. We contract with every MCO in the state in every county. Yet only 20% of our membership is willing to take Medicaid due to the administrative burden, and low reimbursement costs.

We provide critical equipment such as wheelchairs, respiratory supplies like ventilators and oxygen, catheters, insulin pumps, feeding machines, Incontinence supplies and so on. We also provide licensed clinical supports like diatitions, respiratory therapists and assistive technology professionals.

We are an association that values free enterprise and are pro-business especially those that services the most vulnerable in Texas.

What we can agree upon:

We can agree and we appreciate the intent of financial transparency especially when we are discussing tax payer funded medicaid dollars.

We agree with the part of the study done by the Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute Policy Recommendation for MCO oversight that states: The Legislature should direct HHSC to improve transparency within the rate development process. The Legislature should instruct HHSC, to work with MCOs to develop a way of providing the information that allows MCOs the needed transparency into rate development. The best possible product would be borne of a collaborative process (we hope including DME), allowing both parties to contribute to what information and level of detail is available, appropriate, and achievable.

https://be641161-847d-498a-aa0a-c32964f36b6a.usrfiles.com/ugd/be6411_d00e9170caf046e89dd0f33cdaa4ef2d.pdf

Our concerns with the bill are primarily the following:

1. No stakeholder input from Vendors only MCOs
3. No definition of Vendor-we don't want to leave that ambiguous to be defined by the regulatory agencies interpretation
5. HHSC would not be required to ask permission before releasing the company's confidential pricing information. This is an example of what happened with, Pfizer suit against HHSC.
6. This opens buisnesses up to more possible litigation to defend against for audits and more administrative burden without identified cause
7. Over regulation and the impact on small business- Dme business is difficult market to enter as it has a large capital outlay and does better with volume, is highly regulated and takes years before it goes cash flow positive.

Printed on: March 29, 2021 10:22 AM

We would very much welcome the opportunity for further discussion for stakeholder input.

Do you have any questions for me?