

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Human Services  
For HB 113

Compiled on: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 4:56 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

---

Hearing Date: March 7, 2023 8:00 AM

Evangelina Canals, RN BSN  
Girling Community Care  
Corpus Christi, TX

I come to you on behalf of the 700+ clients Girling Community Care /Gentiva Personal Care services provide. Some of our clients and personal care attendants happen to be your constituents that live in your districts. The services and care we provide to those in need face many challenges. I would appreciate you considering your decisions' effect on our clients, along with the personal care attendant, that we employee to provide essential care to their patients. These challenges include continuing to respond with the limited staff available after the COVID-19 pandemic with a strained workforce, overburdened health professionals, supply chain disruptions, soaring gas prices, record breaking inflation especially at the supermarket, along with rent increase and many other issues. We ask you to give favorable consideration to additional funding for healthcare programs that have proven successful in improving access to quality healthcare for patients and communities across your district. The Texas House of Representatives must continue efforts to ensure an adequate, sustainable healthcare workforce by continuing to support and increase funding for personal care attendants as a priority in this upcoming fiscal year.

GWEN CUNNINGHAM, RN  
Girling Community Care  
ODESSA, TX

I am writing to you regarding clients in the Odessa area.. Some of our clients and personal care providers are constituents that live and work in your district. The services and care we provide to those face many challenges. I would appreciate you considering your decisions effect on our clients, along with the caregiver that we employee to provide essential care to their patients. These challenges include strained workforce, soaring gas prices ,over burdened health professionals, inflation, gas prices. We ask you to give favorable considerations for additional funding for healthcare for patients and communities across your district.

Shannon Noble, Ms.  
Healing Hands Community Doula Project  
Austin, TX

Healing Hands Community Doula Project supports the inclusion of community health workers in Medicaid managed care. The doulas we train are all dually certified as doulas and as community health workers. They provide a valuable service to expecting mothers and babies, with a measurable increase in positive birth outcomes for mothers and babies of color. Thank you.

Allison Greer Francis  
The Center for Health Care Services  
San Antonio, TX

My name is Allison Greer Francis and I am in favor of HB 113, relating to the use of community health workers in Medicaid managed care. Community Health Workers (CHWs) are individuals with strong ties to the communities they serve, and they provide a range of services addressing the health and social needs of their clients. Because of their community relationships, CHWs can facilitate connections and greater trust between the community and health care systems, as they are often members of communities that are typically underrepresented in health care settings. They are also specifically qualified to provide culturally competent care. CHWs play an important role in promoting health equity and helping to address disparities. CHW services, including health promotion and education, patient outreach and follow-up, assistance in navigating the health care system, translation and interpretation services, and care coordination and case management, are valuable tools for minority communities.

Carla Riedl  
CHCS  
San Antonio, TX

My name is Carla Riedl and I am in favor of HB 113.

CHWs are individuals with strong ties to the communities they serve and who provide a range of services addressing the health and social needs of their clients. Because of their community relationships, CHWs can facilitate connections and greater trust between the community and health care systems, as they are often members of communities that are typically underrepresented in health care settings. They are also specifically qualified to provide culturally competent care. CHWs play an important role in promoting health equity and helping to address disparities. CHW services, including health promotion and education, patient outreach and follow-up, assistance in navigating the health care system, translation and interpretation services, and care coordination and case management, are valuable tools for minority communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christine Bryan, VP, IT and Public Policy  
Clarity Child Guidance Center  
SAN ANTONIO, TX

Clarity Child Guidance Center is for HB 113. Clarity is a non-profit providing inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services to children ages 3-17. Clarity's patient census is comprised of 60% low-income, state-supported children through Medicaid, CHIP, STARHealth, STARKids and low-cost contracts with area local mental health authorities.

With the severe healthcare workforce shortage in Texas, the state needs to continue to look for innovative ways to increase opportunities to expand labor. Shifting the cost of community health workers away from administrative expense will motivate organizations to bring on more of these much-needed workers. This shift in category may also incentivize them to raise rates, another known issue in the current shortage. With no fiscal note, this seems like a big win.

On behalf of our kids and families, we respectfully ask that the committee support HB 113.