

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Human Services
For HB 1798

Compiled on: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 9:18 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: April 4, 2023 8:00 AM

Micayla Freehan
PALS Home Health
McGregor, TX

Please support HB 1798 to create the Community Care Payment Advisory Committee and Strategic Plan. Providers of home care have been struggling long before the COVID-19 pandemic to recruit and retain health care employees in an increasingly competitive environment. To compound industry challenges, home care providers have not experienced rate increases in over 16 years, ensuring that they cannot keep up with the demand for care. In June 2022, during a Senate Finance Interim Hearing, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) testified that "the Agency doesn't have a particular methodological rate for community attendant services like [they] do for the other programs." Without guidance on how to develop a methodology to ensure adequate access to home care and the ability to assess the unmet needs of enrollees, providers will continue to struggle to hire the necessary staff to ensure they can provide and meet the demand for care." HB 1798 would require HHSC to develop and implement a strategic plan to ensure that the people most in need have access to home and community-based services provided by HCSSAs. The strategic plan must include a rate methodology for each home and community-based service that will ensure adequate access.

Natasha James
PALS Home Health
Moody, TX

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Laurie Lyssy
Disability Services of the Southwest, Inc.
Gillett, TX

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Jessica Spadaccini, RN
Advantage Plus Homecare
Jasper, TX

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Louis Spadaccini, Jr
Advantage Plus Homecare
Jasper, TX

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carmen cepeda

TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL HOME CARE INC

Laredo, TX

Working of time of pandemic and with salaries not reflecting the increase in inflation of 2022-23 has make it a challenge for may company to hire and re-hire, we need better salaries under the rate enhancement and overall throughout the state, my company focus on quality not quantity and care of my clients who are medically fragile and require a lot of help. Summiting for service taking longer, hiring of employees is taking longer you are competing with other jobs with higher salaries. Having a committee that can address is going to make a huge difference for all Home health. Please assist we need to focus on quality of care for clients, better salaries for providers, and facilitation of all programs PAS, Family Care, PHC, STARPLUSMCO, STARKIDSMCO AND STARMCO providers services more flexible and not to take weeks to start services. Thankyou

Reynaldo Delgado Jr

ADL Services Inc

Weslaco, TX

Providers of home care have been struggling long before the COVID-19 pandemic to recruit and retain health care employees in an increasingly competitive environment. To compound industry challenges, home care providers have not experienced rate increases in over 16 years, ensuring that they cannot keep up with the demand for care.

Carlos Morales

Caprock Home Health Services, Inc.

Lubbock, TX

Providers of home care have been struggling long before the COVID-19 pandemic to recruit and retain health care employees in an increasingly competitive environment. To compound industry challenges, home care providers have not experienced rate increases in over 16 years, ensuring that they cannot keep up with the demand for care.

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Shannon Wingard, Administrator

Quality Home Health Care, Inc.

Sherman, TX

Providers of home care have been struggling long before the COVID-19 pandemic to recruit and retain health care employees in an increasingly competitive environment. To compound industry challenges, home care providers have not experienced rate increases in over 16 years, ensuring that they cannot keep up with the current demand for care. In June 2022, during a Senate Finance Interim Hearing, The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) testified that "the Agency doesn't have a particular methodological rate for community attendant services like they do for other programs." Without guidance on how to develop a methodology to ensure adequate access to home care and the ability to assess the unmet needs of enrollees, providers will continue to struggle to hire the necessary staff to ensure the can provide and meet the demand for care. HB 1798 would require HHSC to develop and implement a strategic plan to ensure that the people most in need have access to home and community-based services provided by HCSSAs. The strategic plan must include a rate methodology for each home and community-based service that will ensure adequate access.

Cynthia Carson, PT, Regional Director

Girling Personal Care

Corpus Christi, TX

PLEASE support HB 1798 to create the Community Care Payment Advisory Committee and Strategic Plan. Providers of home care have been struggling long before the COVID-19 pandemic to recruit and retain health care employees in an increasingly competitive environment. To compound industry challenges, home care providers have not experienced rate increases in over 16 years, ensuring that they can't keep up with the demand for care. For this reason, in-home caregivers in particular are exceptionally difficult to recruit and retain.

In June 2022, during a Senate Finance Interim Hearing, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) testified that "the Agency doesn't have a particular methodological rate for community attendant services like (they) do for other programs". Without guidance on how to develop a methodology to ensure adequate access to home care and the ability to assess the unmet needs of enrollees, providers will continue to struggle to hire the necessary staff to ensure they can provide and meet the demands of care.

HB 1798 would require HHSC to develop and implement a strategic plan to ensure that the people most in need have access to home and community-based services provided by HCSSAs. The strategic plan must include a rate methodology for each home and community-based service that will ensure continued and adequate access.

Thank you and your support is greatly appreciated by the clients in need of these in-home care services, the caregivers providing the care and the Provider Agencies that strive to provide safe, compliant and dignified care to home-bound patients.

Bill Szczepanski

Team Select Home Care

Fort Worth, TX

We are in support of this bill. Thank you!

CYNTHIA SELL

We Care Home Health Services, Inc

Mesquite, TX

The attendants are making less than the fast food workers!!

Daniel Willson

Self. Physical Therapist

Tyler, TX

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Rose Rash
Angels at Home Inc
Corsicana, TX

I am the owner of Angels At Home, Inc. in Corsicana, TX. I support HB 1798. I do community-based services in Navarro, Ellis and Henderson counties. I do Consumer Directive Services east of I35. I have approximately 250 employees that serve approximately 300 clients. During the pandemic, I only had 3 workers quit. All but 2 took their vaccine. We take care of the people who need services to keep them safely at home. We save the state money by keeping them out of the nursing home. My company start pay for these workers is \$8.30. The really sad thing is that they can go to Sonic and deliver food as a car hop for \$12/ hour. We have a Buckee's is \$15.00/hour. We have had turned down referrals due to not having employees in remote areas to deliver care and current employees not willing to drive. Agencies cannot raise what we charge the state for the care given, even though we are saving the state millions of dollars. As a tax payer, I appreciate home care saving the state money. I highly encourage all to support this bill and establish an advisory committee to look at payment to employees that are saving the state money.

Brittany Dilleshaw, OTR
self VP of Therapy Services
Angleton, TX

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Jonathan Scepanski, COO
Apex Primary Care
Edinburg, TX

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Jovie Cantu, VP

APC Home Health Service, Inc. d/b/a APC Homemaker Services

Harlingen, TX

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Hannah Mehta

Protect TX Fragile Kids

Flower Mound, TX

In support of HB1798.

Alex Lux

PALS Home Health

Waco, TX

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Norma Saldana

APC Home Health Service, Inc.

Harlingen, TX

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Jonathan Willman
Consolidated Home Health
Sugar Land, TX

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Ashley Ford, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy
The Arc of Texas
Austin, TX

The Arc of Texas supports HB 1798.

Marjorie Costello
Myself
San Marcos, TX

I support this

Lillian Hogue
Self- Service Advisor for CDS in Texas
San Antonio, TX

Employees need to be paid more. They work hard every day taking care of others, we need to take care of them.

Henry Puente
Self - Corporate Billing Director
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill as it will provide vital support to this community in a meaningful and impactful way.

CAROLINA SANCHEZ
DSSW
SAN ANTONIO, TX

I support HB 1798!

Guadalupe Mancha
CDS in Texas Sr Audit Specialist
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill

LaDonna Pack
Disability Services of the Southwest
New Braunfels, TX
I support this bill!

Salina Hawley
DSSW
Longview, TX
I support this Bill.

William Cochran
self; information technology
Caldwell, TX
I support this bill.

David Martinez
Disability Services of the Southwest
San Antonio, TX

As a concerned citizen, I fully support the bill regarding the development of a strategic plan for home and community-based services provided under Medicaid and the child health plan program, as well as the establishment of an advisory committee on home and community-based services. This bill will ensure that individuals who require home and community-based services receive the necessary support and care to live healthy, fulfilling lives, and that their needs are met in a manner that is cost-effective and sustainable for our healthcare system. I urge lawmakers to pass this bill and prioritize the well-being of our communities.

Katherine Ramos
CDS in Texas
San Antonio, TX
I support this bill.

LaTisha Adkins, Registered Nurse
Self-RN
Diana, TX
I support this Bill.

Kecia Hunt
Self - Controller
San Antonio, TX
I support this HB 1798 by Howard

Pamela Allen, Program Director
Disability Services of The Southwest
Mansfield, TX
I support this bill.

Jeri Saucedo
Disability Services of the Southwest
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

daniel garcia, srvc adv
CDS in Texas
san antonio, TX

support this bill

WILLIAM TORRES
CDS In Texas
San Antonio, TX

I support this HB 1798 bill

Alejandra Campos
Lifespan Home Health
Dallas, TX

I see many of our employees working day in and day out and barely making ends meat this will help greatly. Also maybe it will be an incentive for more people to want to start working in this field gain.

Natanael Gonzalez
Disability Services of the Southwest
San Antonio, TX

We need our attendants to be paid more.

Cristina Rendon
self
Denison, TX

No comment at this time

Christina Milano
DSSW anf Lifespan Home Health
Killeen, TX

I SUPPORT this BILL!!!

Marcos Campos
LifeSpan Home Health
SAN ANTONIO, TX

I support this bill.

Tia Griffen
DSSW
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill

Stephanie Phelps-Navarro
Lifespan Home Health/ DSSW
San Antonio, TX
support this bill

Julie Lynch, LVN/QA/Document Specialist
PALS (Pediatric) Home Health
Waco, TX

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Charles Crady
Disability Services of the Southwest
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

Veronica Flores
Self
San Antonio, TX
I support this bill

erica wiltz
self occupation
beaumont, TX
I support this bill.

Leigh Fox, Intake Coordinator
Lifespan HomeHealth/CDS In Texas
San Antonio, TX
I support the bill

Nikki Robertson
Consumer Directed Services
SAN ANTONIO, TX
I support this bill.

Mike Perrier

self

Temple, TX

Pay the attendants more money. It's ridiculous how little money they make caring for the most vulnerable in our community.

Manhattan Perez-Tarble

DSSW/Lifespan

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

Jakob Villarreal

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

irma Valverde, Tax Specialist

%CDS IN TEXAS

SAN ANTONIO, TX

I support this bill!

Desire Tobin, HR Manager

Disability Services of the Southwest

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

Hailey Reese, Electronic Forms Designer

CDS in Texas/DSSW/LifeSpan Home Health

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

Sarah Rodriguez

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill; I believe it will benefit the attendants who work in these programs and be able to work through a lot of difficulties in communication between agencies and the clients.

Sonya Guerrero

Disability Services of the Southwest/LifeSpan Home Health

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

Patricia Leet

Lifespan HomeHealth

San Antonio, TX

our attendants need to be considered they care for elderly and special needs for almost nothing that needs to change

James Lane, Regional Director of Operations
Disability Services of the Southwest
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill!

Abbey Gutierrez, Lead program Director
Disability Services Of The Southwest
Ft Worth, TX

I support this bill

Emily Gannon
CDS in Texas
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

Brenda Anderson
CDS in Texas
San Antonio, TX

We need a strategic plan to address reimbursement rates in all the programs we serve so that we can work to pay our attendants higher wages.

Brenda Anderson
CDS in Texas
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

Tahnee Torres
CDS in Texas
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

LaDonna Shirley, RN
DSSW
Austin, TX

So important to pay attendants a living wage to attract quality people that do such an important job.

Adam Cantu
Disability Services of the Southwest
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill

David Santoyo
DSSW
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

Frankie Davis
DSSW
San Antonio, TX
I support this bill

Gina Necessary
Disability Services of the Southwest
Gatesville, TX
I support this Bill.

Laura Cortez
CDS in Texas
San Antonio, TX
I support this bill.

Susana Muniz
LifeSpan Home Health
El Paso, TX
I support this bill

Elizabeth Spear
DSSW/LifeSpan Home Health
Austin, TX
I support this bill!

Elisa Alvarado
life span
fort worth, TX
I support this bill

Cesar Peralta, CM
DSSW/Lifespan Home Health
El Paso, TX
I Support this bill.

Cesar Peralta, CM
DSSW/Lifespan Home Health
El Paso, TX
I support this bill

Wendy Stockhammer
Disability Services of the Southwest / LifeSpan Home Health
San Antonio, TX
I support this bill

Sylvia Romero
CDS in Texas
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

Melissa Nanez
CDS in Texas
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

Keri Cass
Self: Manager Compliance/Records CDS in Texas, Lifespan Homehealth
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill!

crystal sanchez
CDS in texas
San Antonio, TX

i support this bill

Rebecca Mayo
Dssw Lifespan
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

Melanie Story, Program Director
Disability Services of the Southwest
Ft. Worth, TX

I support this bill

Ruby Vega, Administrator
DSSW
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

Amy Lindsey
self
Burleson, TX

we need this bill to pass for clients in our state who depend on the services.

Cindy Ferguson, RN
Disability Services of the Southwest
Hewitt, TX

I support this bill. Thank you,

Heather Perez, Payroll Manager
DSSW/Life Span/CDS
San Antonio, TX

I am in full support of HB 1798 by Howard

Pamela Smith
PALS Home Health
Waco, TX

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Alma Prado
APC HOMEMAKER SERVICE HGN
HARLINGEN, TX

Relating to the development of a strategic plan for home and community-based services provided under Medicaid and the child health plan program and the establishment of an advisory committee on home and community-based services.

Audrey Martinez, HR Assistant
APC Home Health Services INC.
Harlingen, TX

Relating to the development of a strategic plan for home and community-based services provided under Medicaid and the child health plan program and the establishment of an advisory committee on home and community-based services.

Maria Sandoval, Billing Clerk
Self
Mercedes, TX

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Isabel Mercado

APC Home Home Health

Harlingen, TX

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Maggie Cantu

self

Harlingen, TX

Relating to the development of a strategic plan for home and community-based services provided under Medicaid and the child health plan program and the establishment of an advisory committee on home and community-based services.