

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Higher Education  
For HB 2642

Compiled on: Monday, April 17, 2023 10:27 AM

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Hearing Date: April 17, 2023 8:00 AM

Alexiea Feaster  
Young Invincibles  
Austin, TX

Dear Representative Kuempel and Honorable committee members,

My name is Alexiea Feaster and I am a Youth Advocate with Young Invincibles, a national nonprofit organization that is committed to amplifying the voices of young people in the political process and expanding economic opportunity for 18-34 year old's.

Today I will be testifying in support of House Bill 2642. Students in the state of Texas are given notices to already have comprehensive health insurance or to opt into the university's health plan. However, most institutions don't provide inclusive conversations on how to make the most of them. For most young Texans, entering institutions of higher education serves as uncharted territory. This accentuates confusion, frustration and anguish because students have only received medical care when accompanied by their parent or guardian(s). Most Students take missteps or ignore their body because of the stressors that come with the transition from high schooler to young adult. It should be mandated that all institutions of higher education publicize the in-depth medical care offered by trained staff. Acknowledging that there are options out there for medical help will limit so many cases of STD's and STI's running rampant. This will also directly impact cases in which young women seek preventative care and check-ups.

I myself as a first generation college graduate fell victim to limited awareness at my institution of higher learning. I only knew that if I presented with mild symptoms of an illness I should visit the health clinic on campus. Most times providers could only issue small doses of ibuprofen and recommend a visit to the city's local clinics. Had I gained exposure to other medical treatments I can confidently say as a young woman I would've gained more respect for my university. Hopefully in enacting this bill, thousands of others like myself won't have been in the dark about services available to us.

Thank You,  
Alexiea Feaster  
Youth Advocate  
Young Invincibles

Jen Biundo  
Healthy Futures of Texas  
Austin, TX

As a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works towards teen pregnancy prevention and adolescent health, Healthy Futures of Texas strongly supports HB 2642, which would support the health of young adults in Texas by making them aware of preventive care programs for which they may already be eligible.

In 2020 there were 15,490 births to teens aged 18 - 19 in Texas, 88% of which occurred outside of marriage. Additionally, among young women aged 20-24 years olds in Texas, 67% of births were non-marital in 2020, indicating that they likely were unintentional.

Many young women of college age want to be using effective contraception to prevent unintended pregnancy, but perceive cost or lack of insurance coverage as an insurmountable barrier. Among Texas youth aged 19-24, 29% are uninsured. They may also be deferring care such as well women checks or cervical cancer screenings. In addition to supporting health, providing these preventive health care services saves the state money by averting unintended pregnancy and preventing cervical cancer.

These young women are unaware that programs such as Healthy Texas Women or the Family Planning Program are available to cover these services. Additionally, in our work with community college campuses, we have seen that many youth serving professionals such as college wellness counselors also are not aware of these programs and are not able to refer students to them.

We respectfully urge committee members to support HB 2642.