

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Human Services  
For HB 3151

Compiled on: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 2:03 PM

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Hearing Date: April 8, 2025 8:00 AM

Hugo Vizcaya-Zingg  
Health Services of North Texas  
Denton, TX

The Legislature should require health plans to include FQHCs as providers eligible for the expedited credentialing process. This would apply to established FQHCs that are adding new providers to an existing clinic, as well as existing FQHCs that are adding new clinic locations. Allowing health centers to access this expedited process will cut down on red tape and support their ability to serve Medicaid patients while maintaining robust program integrity standards.

Teri Johnson

Health Services of North Texas and I am a local community member

Lantana, TX

FQHC's adjust rapidly to respond to community need and when health centers hire new providers or open a new site, credentialing is labor intensive, slow and creates financial burdens for health centers. HB 3151 will addresses the need for expedited credentialing.

Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs or health centers) serve 1.8 million Texans, including 600,000 Medicaid patients annually. When a health center adds a new provider or sets up a clinic in a new community, they are required to be enrolled with Medicaid and credentialed with managed care organizations (MCOs). Some health centers report extended delays of more than six months to complete the credentialing process. During this time period, health centers provide care to patients but are not always being reimbursed by Medicaid MCOs, leaving FQHCs to cover the costs of providing care, while MCOs continue to receive payments from the state for patients accessing services at the health center. For health centers establishing new clinics in new communities, the financial burden of providing care while waiting for the provider credentialing process to be completed can be immense.

c. FQHC's have been left out of expedited credentialing. The Texas Insurance Code outlines requirements for provider credentialing and includes a process for expedited credentialing that applies to all health plans, including Medicaid. The expedited credentialing process requires health plans to shorten the credentialing timeframe and reimburse providers while they are going through the process. Expedited credentialing currently applies to select providers, including physicians joining an established medical group, podiatrists, and optometrists, but not FQHCs. Health centers are subject to significant oversight at the federal and state levels, and are safety-net providers that cannot turn patients away or limit care during the credentialing process.

The Legislature should require health plans to include FQHCs as providers eligible for the expedited credentialing process. This would apply to established FQHCs that are adding new providers to an existing clinic, as well as existing FQHCs that are adding new clinic locations. Allowing health centers to access this expedited process will cut down on red tape and support their ability to serve Medicaid patients while maintaining robust program integrity standards.

Thank you for your consideration.

Madeline Fink

Health Services of North Texas, Inc.

Denton, TX

Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs or health centers) serve 1.8 million Texans, including 600,000 Medicaid patients annually. When a health center adds a new provider or sets up a clinic in a new community, they are required to be enrolled with Medicaid and credentialed with managed care organizations (MCOs). Some health centers report extended delays of more than six months to complete the credentialing process. During this time period, health centers provide care to patients but are not always being reimbursed by Medicaid MCOs, leaving FQHCs to cover the costs of providing care, while MCOs continue to receive payments from the state for patients accessing services at the health center. For health centers establishing new clinics in new communities, the financial burden of providing care while waiting for the provider credentialing process to be completed can be immense. Expedited credentialing of certain federally qualified health center providers will help these FQHCs continue to serve Texas residents in need and maintain a healthy Texas community for all.