

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Health  
For SB 1388

Compiled on: Monday, May 5, 2025 10:21 AM

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Hearing Date: May 5, 2025 8:00 AM

Patricia Penner, Executive Director

Sealy Pregnancy Resource Center

Sealy, TX

Thriving Texas Family Program (TTF) program

Senate Bill 1388

Support for Fee-for-Service Model Thriving Texas Families (TTF) Program

Thank you for your support for mothers and children through the TTF program. We respectfully request that the Texas legislature amend SB 1388 to allow providers of services under the TTF program to continue using the fee-for-service model currently in place. Doing so will allow us to focus on serving our clients rather than staffing up in order to handle the paperwork required under the proposed calculated cost model.

Sealy Pregnancy Resource Center (SPRC) serves a rural community providing essential programs to underserved mothers and their families. Changing the funding model will detract from our ability to provide the same level of service to the communities we serve.

The proposed changes from the fee-for-service model would...

- A. necessitate the need for additional paid staff to manage data entry and reporting requirements
- B. increase costs associated with the development and maintenance of a database to gather and manage data, as such a database doesn't currently exist.
- C. decrease funds available to provide the same level of service to our underserved families.

SPRC is also the only organization within this 35-mile radius. We provide exactly the types of programs enumerated in the bill offering pregnancy tests, peer and professional counseling, ultrasounds, education classes: prenatal, life skills and parenting, financial management, domestic abuse and family support (groceries, utilities, housing, transportation, referrals, employment readiness, etc.), material assistance, and Diaper Bank services to support young ladies throughout pregnancy and the child's first 36 months, free of charge.

SPRC operates with a lean staff serving 65+ families each week. SPRC funding has remained the same for the past 3 years, with a 40% increase of those requiring our services. Cost related to providing these services continue to climb. Donor assistance also has not increased at the rate of demand for services.

Larger urban towns have a much larger pool of resources that the rural communities cannot draw upon. Therefore, we rely heavily on the TTF program to help provide the quality of service our mothers and their families need and deserve.

With your continued support to the fee-for-service model, we will continue to be that beacon of hope in our rural communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Patricia Penner

Executive Director, Sealy Pregnancy Resource Center

Natasha Bridges, Senior Director  
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc.  
San Antonio, TX

My name is Natasha Bridges, Senior Director with Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc. The mission of Catholic Charities is to provide for the needs of our community through selfless service under the sign of love. We have proudly served 2,405 pregnant or parenting individuals and 2,120 children in 2024 through the Thriving Texas Families program. Services include prenatal and postpartum education to improve maternal health. Through our San Antonio Birth Doula 92% of parents enrolled showed an increase in knowledge relating to their pregnancy and postpartum journey. Education and strengthening parenting skills and knowledge to improve their family's overall well-being. 100% of parents were able to identify age appropriate milestones and potential delays. Mothers experience homelessness who reside at our Guadalupe Home residential shelter participate in case management services and with life skills training and goal setting. 96% of mothers obtained employment, enrolled in school, and/or volunteer to give back to the community. All parents are also offered trauma informed counseling services at no cost to them due to TTF funding. In addition to education and support, we are also able to provide basic needs assistance such as clothing, diapers, and toiletries that in turn helps relieve financial burden that help to reduce parental stressors that reduce risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect.

We are able to provide a wide range of wrap around services to meet various needs. We strongly support senate bill 1388 that helps preserve the core mission of the Thriving Texas Families and the amendment that would allow providers the option to continue operating under the proven fee-for-service model. This model allows for flexibility in services to truly meet families where they are and tailor services specifically to them. Services are tracked in real time and signed off electronically by both the service provider and the client to ensure accountability. In addition to the benefit of service flexibility, the fee-for-service model allows for predictability in an ever changing nonprofit world where grants can be restrictive. In addition to direct client services, these earned unrestricted funds allow for a wider range of support to the organization to include operational costs, infrastructure, and in some cases expansion to reach even more families. Majority of our operations cover families who reside in Bexar County, though due in-part of the Texas Thriving Families program funding we have established services in Val Verde County as well as provide virtual services to those who reside in more rural counties where parents may not have transportation and services are limited or non-existent.

We thank you for your time and consideration of senate bill 1388 to protect the way 92% of the services in the Thriving Texas Families program are provided. We are happy to answer any questions you may have about my testimony.

Ellen Raff  
Self, citizen of US  
Dallas, TX

This bill would result in fewer facilities for health care in Texas. Many rural areas depend on the existing clinics for care. All clinics operate within already existing law. Vote No on SB 1388 to help all Texans have access to needed medical care.

Ellen Raff  
Dallas  
75219

Diana Spain  
Retired  
Austin, TX

SB 1388 is a dangerous bill disguised as help for Texas families.

It would turn the state's family support program into a political weapon, excluding providers who are even remotely associated with abortion services. It bans family planning. It forces organizations to sign "life-affirming" pledges to qualify for funding. It prioritizes ideology over actual care.

This bill doesn't help families thrive. It limits their choices, weakens support systems, and pushes a narrow political agenda on Texans who need housing, healthcare, and parenting support.

Corinna Levine  
Self, Occupational Therapist  
Richmond, TX

I am writing to ask you to vote NO on SB 1388. This bill would undermine the integrity of family support services in Texas by politicizing who can provide care and what services are available.

SB 1388 rebrands the current program but excludes trusted providers who may be even loosely associated with abortion services. It bans access to family planning services and requires organizations to sign ideological certifications in order to continue serving our communities.

That's not supporting Texas families—that's restricting them.

Families need comprehensive, evidence-based care: housing assistance, parenting support, reproductive healthcare, and access to a full range of options—not a filtered version that aligns with one political belief.

This bill prioritizes politics over public health, and it will hurt vulnerable Texans.

Please stand with families across our state and vote NO on SB 1388.

Chris Donofrio

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 1388.

Every line added to the Health and Safety Code by SB 1388 makes it even harder for Texas women to seek an abortion.

This is not what we sent any of you to the legislature to accomplish.

Over 10 million of us expect you to expand legal access to abortion. You've let many good bills which help accomplish this languish in several Committees.

That's more than a million of us who want you to establish an ESA, voucher, other school choice program. Yet you've worked extremely hard on this.

I've gotten these numbers from a February 2025 survey conducted by The Texas Polling Project (University of Texas) in anticipation of this legislative session. They found the following. I have indicated the number of Texans 18 years and older, based on US Census estimates, to give all of you some idea of how many of us a statistic represents.

It is Extremely and Very Important for the Legislature to:

Reduce Property Taxes: 86% (19.8 Million Texans)

Improve the Reliability of the State's Energy Grid: 84% (19.3 M Texans)

Lower the Cost of Everyday Goods and Services: 81% (18.6 M Texans)

Increase Access to Health Care: 81% (18.6 M Texans)

Lower the Cost of Housing: 72% (16.6 M Texans)

Increase Access to Mental Health Services: 71% (16.3 M Texans)

Increase Funding for the Public Education System: 68% (15.6 M Texans)

Direct State Agencies to Cooperate with Fed Govt on Immigration: 60% (13.8 M Texans)

Expand Legal Access to Abortion Services: 44% (10.1 M Texans)

Establish an ESA, Voucher, Other School Choice Program: 39% (9.0 M Texans)

Can all of you stop hurting, devaluing, and dehumanizing women?

Will you spend the little time remaining in this session to actually meet our expectations?

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 1388.

Please kill it in Committee.

Respectfully, Chris J Donofrio