

State of Texas  
House of Representatives

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**R.D. "Bobby" Guerra**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 41

August 11, 2022

Cecile Erin Young, Executive Commissioner  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission  
P.O. Box 13247  
Austin, TX, 78711

Dear Executive Commissioner Young,

Community partners have brought to my attention that Medicaid hospice contracts are experiencing significant processing delays by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) including contracts for initial requests, renewals and change of ownerships (CHOW). I've been advised that the processing can take one to three years. This delay in Medicaid provider contracts processing limits access to hospice care and could eliminate care for terminally ill Medicare and Medicaid recipients.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the limitations of patient's access to care by hospice providers of nursing care, social work, spiritual care, and personal care by hospice aides and volunteers. These patients and their families have suffered immeasurable loss by not receiving services due to the pandemic for the last two years.

I acknowledge that state agency fiscal appropriations and challenges in hiring and retaining qualified staff have added to the processing issues at HHSC. Additionally, the inevitable end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) will mean more individuals will lose Medicaid coverage and need to transition to another program.

Please let me know how the legislature can support HHSC so they can improve Medicaid provider contract processing times, address staffing challenges and transition millions of Texans off Medicaid and onto existing programs for which they qualify. You may reach my Chief of Staff Stephanie Chiarello at [Stephanie.Chiarello@house.texas.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Chiarello@house.texas.gov) or 512-745-6245 (cell).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby Guerra".

State Representative R.D. "Bobby" Guerra  
Vice Chair, House Committee on Public Health  
House District 41



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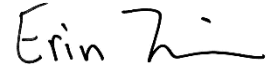
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