

Memorandum

To: Planning Committee
Copy: Board of Managers
From: Jonny F. Hipp, Administrator
Date: June 3, 2015
Re: "Texas Way Program" Initiative in 84th Texas Legislative Session

On January 27, 2015, the Board of Managers and later Nueces County Commissioners Court adopted separate resolutions supporting the "Texas Way Program" initiative urging the 84th Texas Legislature's support of the initiative. The Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce later adopted a supporting resolution thereby joining many other urban Chambers of Commerce in the state who had previously done so.

You may recall that the "Texas Way" is a *proposed* uniquely Texan, private market-based health insurance coverage program designed to improve the health of low-wage working Texans and strengthen the state's economy. The Program is intended to be an option for the Legislature to consider in the event it chose not to expand Medicaid in Texas under the present federal Affordable Care Act ("ACA") rules. The Program assumes that state would request the federal funds, that are available for Medicaid expansion in the state, be "block-granted" to the state be used to support the Program. As proposed, the "Texas Way Program" would:

- Connect uninsured Texans with private insurance coverage choices;
- Require personal responsibility;
- Promote appropriate utilization of health care services; and
- Reduce inefficient health care spending.

This is to report that the 84th Texas Legislature's did not enact legislation to either expand Medicaid or request ACA block grant funds to implement the "Texas Way Program."

Thank you.

Jonny F. Hipp