



# TEACHING HOSPITALS of TEXAS

## THOT MEMBERS

### AUSTIN

Central Health  
Ascension Texas Ministry Seton

### CORPUS CHRISTI

CHRISTUS Spohn Health System  
Nueces County Hospital District

### DALLAS

Children's Health System of  
Texas  
Parkland Health & Hospital  
System  
The University of Texas  
Southwestern Medical Center

### EL PASO

University Medical Center  
of El Paso

### FORT WORTH

JPS Health Network

### GALVESTON

The University of Texas  
Medical Branch

### HOUSTON

Harris Health System  
The University of Texas MD  
Anderson Cancer Center

### LUBBOCK

UMC Health System of Lubbock

### MIDLAND

Midland Memorial Hospital

### ODESSA

Medical Center Health System

### SAN ANTONIO

University Health System

### TYLER

UT Health Northeast

### GME Affiliate

RIO GRANDE VALLEY - EDINBURG  
Doctors Hospital at Renaissance

## Testimony for Senate Health and Human Services Committee March 8, 2017

RE: SB 1107 by Sen. Schwertner - Relating to telemedicine and telehealth services.

Good morning, Chair Schwertner, Vice Chair Uresti and members of the committee.

I am writing on behalf of the Teaching Hospitals of Texas in support of the goals of SB 1107: improving access to needed healthcare through the appropriate use of telemedicine and telehealth services. Texas has done much pioneering work in the use of telemedicine to improve access and care, including joint health team and family teleconferencing for children with special health care needs nearly twenty-five years ago at UTMB.

As telemedicine and telehealth are more broadly implemented, we hope that our high-quality telemedicine providers, including those at tertiary care facilities, will have an opportunity to continue engaging and advancing telehealth and telemedicine with fair and cost-effective payment methodologies.

We appreciate your work and your support for increased access to quality care through appropriate use of telemedicine and telehealth. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

For context on THOT, I've included our commitments and service footprint below.

Our association of hospitals and health systems share three core commitments:

- Providing quality care for all with a special focus on vulnerable Texans.
- Ensuring care is there when it is needed through trauma care, disaster planning and services, and public health response.
- Preparing for the future by training our health workforce including graduate medical education and engaging in breakthrough clinical and delivery system research and transformation.

*Saving lives today, preparing for tomorrow.*

While only representing about four percent of Texas' hospitals and 16% of patient days, THOT members provide 21% of Medicaid care; 30% of the state's hospital provided outpatient care; 36% of the hospital care provided to uninsured Texans; almost two-thirds of Level 1 Trauma care; and about two-thirds of hospital based Graduate Medical Education residencies. THOT members comprise 11 of the 20 waiver anchors; provide significant outpatient care; and provide over one-quarter of the total funding for statewide Texas Medicaid hospital payments including DSH and the waivers' billions in healthcare investments.

Please let me know if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Maureen Milligan  
President and CEO  
Teaching Hospitals of Texas  
512.476.1497

*Saving lives today, preparing for tomorrow.*