



Remarks Before the Article II Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee

March 1, 2021

Good morning, Chair Capriglione, Vice-Chair Rose, and Members of the Committee.

My name is Kami Geoffray and I am here on behalf of [Every Body Texas](https://www.everybodytexas.org), where I serve as the Chief Executive Officer. Thank you for the invitation to address the committee today and to share my strong support for women's health services funding.

As the statewide recipient of the federal [Title X Family Planning Program](#) grant, Every Body Texas funds a diverse network of providers that serves over 180,000 clients each year. Title X providers also participate in Texas Medicaid and the state-funded women's health programs administered by HHSC, relying on these critical revenue sources to offer robust healthcare services to their clients and communities.¹

Every Body Texas strongly advocates for prioritizing funding for Healthy Texas Women, the Family Planning Program, and the Breast and Cervical Cancer Services program.

In recent years, the Texas Legislature has exhibited a commitment to rebuilding women's health programs—and we thank you for investing limited state general revenue funds in healthcare services that have been shown to save both costs and lives.

Most of the increased appropriations have been dedicated to expanding the scope of the Healthy Texas Women program, including funding for an enhanced postpartum benefit package recently launched as Healthy Texas Women Plus. We are supportive of these enhanced services—and yet we have concerns about the potential impact on funding availability for the core family planning services provided as a part of Healthy Texas Women and the Family Planning Program.

As the appropriations process continues, we urge you to revisit the funding needed to adequately support the Family Planning Program in particular. There is significant, documented unmet need

¹ Every Body Texas, *2020 Impact Report* (February 2021) (finding that while federal Title X funds comprised a significant portion of the network's revenue in fiscal year 2020 (\$12.69M, 26.41%), agencies were supported by diverse revenue streams that included the Family Planning Program (\$12.79M, 26.62%), Healthy Texas Women (Fee For Service, \$9.28M, 19.32% and Cost Reimbursement, \$2.87M, 5.98%) and Medicaid (\$4.26M, 8.85%)), <https://www.everybodytexas.org/uploads/files/general/2020ImpactReportFINAL.pdf>.



in this program, yet it has not received a substantive increase in funding since the 2018-2019 biennium.

We also join other advocates in calling on the Legislature to address healthcare coverage gaps by extending Medicaid coverage for new moms from 60 days to one year postpartum and accepting federal Medicaid funding to offer insurance to low-income adults in Texas.

I'd like to close today with something that Kathryn Hearn, the Community Services Director at [Access Esperanza Clinics](#) in McAllen, recently [shared with me](#):

The most important thing legislators need to understand about our work is that it really is about people. It isn't just about numbers. It isn't about politics. It really is about people. And the work that we do impacts people's lives every day. Not just today, but there's a legacy to what we do. The other day, our CEO was in line to vote. And he was wearing his name tag. Someone saw the name tag and came up to him and said, "Your clinic saved my life." Several years ago, she had lost her job and didn't have health insurance, hadn't had an exam in a long time, came to our clinic. We discovered a mass in her breast, linked her to low-cost imaging, linked her to diagnosis services and then to care. She credits our clinic for saving her life.

Thank you for your time today and for your commitment to ensuring that the 2022-2023 biennial budget will continue to support lifesaving healthcare services for millions of Texans who all deserve a healthy future. I am happy to take any questions you may have at this time.