



Statement on the 87th Texas Regular Legislative Session

June 4, 2021

Earlier this week the Texas Legislature adjourned *sine die*, ending the 87th Regular Legislative Session. Working through a historic pandemic and the impact of the February winter storm added a whole new set of challenges to an already demanding legislative process. While there were missed opportunities to increase access to critical healthcare services for Texans during this session, and more work remains during the legislative interim, there were a few gains as a result of your advocacy.

As part of our [2020-2024 Strategic Plan](#), Every Body Texas took on a greater role in public policy advocacy than in previous years. We released a set of policy priorities to:

- Prioritize critical safety net healthcare programs including Healthy Texas Women and the Family Planning Program.
- 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.
- Maintain and adopt new flexibilities that promote increased access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including telehealth.

Legislative movement was realized in each of these priorities. While we're grateful that there were no cuts to women's health and family planning priorities in the state's budget, there continues to be a need for increased funding—especially for the Family Planning Program, which has not seen an increase since the 85th Legislative Session (2017) despite documented unmet need.

The passage of HB 133, which increased postpartum Medicaid coverage from 2 months to 6 months, is a step in the right direction. However, it falls short of the 12 months advocates and the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Taskforce sought. We will continue to work towards that 12-month coverage goal. We'll also be closely monitoring any changes to the Healthy Texas Women program as a result changes included in HB 133.

In the coming weeks we will share a full legislative recap and our plans for continued advocacy during the legislative interim. In the meantime, you can look at our [final list of bills](#) we were following to see what passed and what didn't.