

Setting the Stage for the 87th Legislative Session

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Refresher on Texas Government

- ▶ 87th Texas Legislature convened January 12, 2021;
- ▶ Texas Legislature meets 140 calendar day ever 2 years;
- ▶ 31 members of the Senate
- ▶ 150 member of the House

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Refresher on Texas Government

- ▶ Only thing the Legislature is constitutionally required to do – pass a balanced budget.
- ▶ Every 10 years the Legislature is required to do Redistricting – reapportion or redraw Texas’ political districts.
- ▶ Average 6,600 bills filed, 1,200 passed, 51 vetoed.

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Politics 101

- ▶ A politician’s first duty is NOT first do no harm, it IS to get reelected
- ▶ Politics drive health care policy
- ▶ Legislative reforms are reactive not proactive – changes occur after, not before the proverbial train wreck, plane crash, biblical storm, financial meltdown – you get the picture.

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87th Texas Legislature

- ▶ New Speaker of the House of Representatives
- ▶ New committee leadership
- ▶ More bipartisanship?
- ▶ Emphasis on redistricting & passing a balanced budget

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87th Texas Legislature: Health Care Issues

- ▶ Statewide Health Care Costs
- ▶ Family Medicine Workforce
- ▶ Scope of Practice
- ▶ Medicaid Payment Rates
- ▶ Public Health
 - Vaccines
 - E-Cigarettes
 - Maternal Health
 - Mental & Behavioral Health

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House Select Committee on Statewide Health Care Costs

- ▶ Examine the primary drivers of increased health care costs in Texas. This examination should include a review of:
 - Current health care financing strategies;
 - Fragmentation of the care delivery administrative burden;
 - Population health and social factors that contribute to rising rates of chronic disease and poor health;
 - Insurance coverage and benefit design;
 - Lack of transparency in the cost of health care services;
 - Regional variation in the cost of care;
 - Consolidation and lack of competition in the provider and insurance markets;
 - Health care workforce capacity distribution; and
 - Fraud, abuse and wasteful spending.

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House Select Committee on Statewide Health Care Costs

- ▶ Study opportunities to better coordinate how public dollars are spent on health care; and
- ▶ Identify emerging and proven delivery system improvements and sustainable financing models that could reduce the cost of health care.

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Federal Perspective

- ▶ Divided Government = Zero Sum
- ▶ Health Care will be Dominant Theme in 2020 Presidential Election

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Thank You!

Questions?

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