



2021 TEXAS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



CHRISTUS Health is a Catholic health ministry that strives to be a **leader, partner, and advocate** in the creation of innovative health and wellness solutions that improve the lives of individuals and communities so that all may experience God's healing presence and love.

The communities CHRISTUS serves continue to have the highest rates of uninsured populations in the country and reimbursement for health care services can be challenging and unpredictable. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a significant increase in the number of uninsured Texans, and has compounded preexisting financial strains on Texas hospitals.

Each year, CHRISTUS Health is one of the **HIGHEST PROVIDERS OF CHARITY CARE IN THE U.S.** amongst Catholic Health Systems.



In fiscal year 2020, in Texas, CHRISTUS provided over **\$337 MILLION** in community benefits.

Legislative Priorities



Promote Access to Care and Health Equity

- Reduce the number of uninsured individuals, including children, in Texas.
- Fund behavioral health care commensurate with need and foster access to behavioral health services in the most appropriate settings.
- Expand the use of telehealth in Texas to ensure access to specialists in rural areas and hard to reach communities, and continue flexibilities and waivers for the use of telehealth granted during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Allow nurse practitioners (NPs) to practice to the full extent of their training and education to improve access to care, particularly in rural and underserved areas of the state.
- Support efforts to reduce maternal mortality.
- Support immunization programs to prevent, reduce, and eliminate vaccine-preventable diseases in children and adults.

Legislative Priorities Cont.



Ensure A Strong Safety Net

- Secure state funding for health care programs and services.
- Support locally generated solutions, including Local Provider Participation Funds (LPPF), to generate the necessary non-federal share of Medicaid supplemental payments and increased hospital rates.
- Ensure funds under the 1115 Waiver and beyond are distributed equitably based on the provision of care to Medicaid and low-income beneficiaries by hospital providers.
- Maintain a dedicated funding source for the state's trauma network.
- Fund additional graduate medical education (GME) slots in Texas to train the next generation of Texas physicians.



Eliminate Barriers And Increase Transparency

- Reform the Medicaid managed care system in Texas to alleviate burdens placed on health care providers and to ensure uniform policies and procedures by Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) across the state.
- Support increased oversight and transparency of freestanding emergency departments to protect consumers.



Protect Vulnerable Populations And Conscience Protections

- Support policies consistent with CHRISTUS' Catholic identity and oppose proposals that would conflict with the Ethical and Religious Directives that inform CHRISTUS' mission.

Christus Health Locations

- CHRISTUS Health System headquarters
- Cities in which CHRISTUS Health affiliates and related entities operate hospitals or long-term care facilities, in addition to various clinics and outpatient sites.
- Cities in which CHRISTUS Health affiliates and related entities operate offices, clinics, outpatient sites, or affiliated physician groups.

