



TEXANS CARE
for **CHILDREN**

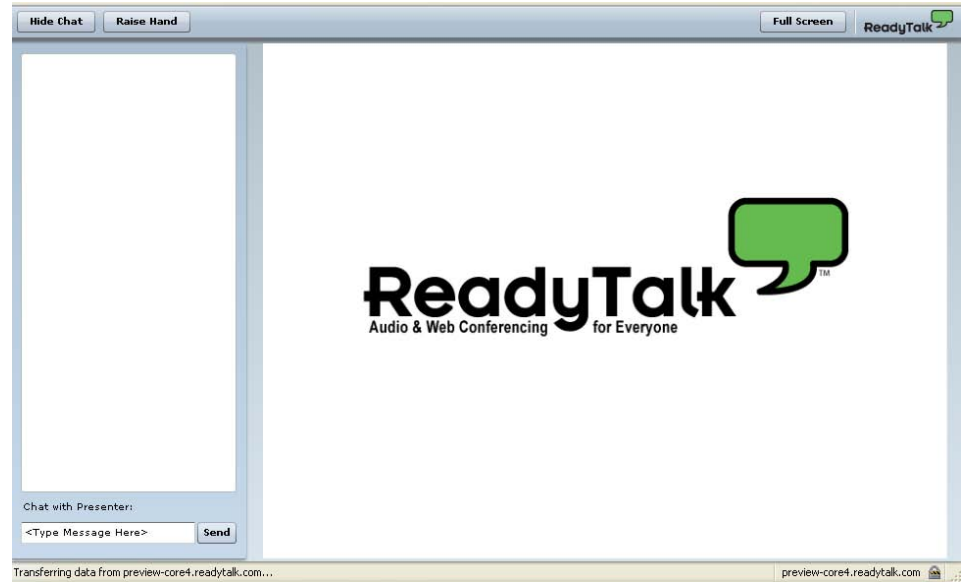
Texas Children in the 82nd Legislature

Welcome to the Web Conference

- Enter questions via “Chat”
- For audio, dial:
866.740.1260
- If the above fails, call:
(424) 203-8400

Access Code: 618543#

- This event is being recorded.



Our mission is to improve the lives of Texas children by building commitment and action for improved public policy and programs.

As the state's first multi-issue child advocacy non-profit, we bring together groups from all over Texas in a united campaign for children.



Join us in advancing policies for Texas children



- Membership is **free** for nonprofits
- Exclusive access to members-only content
- Connect with peers, media, decision-makers
- www.txchildren.org/Membership

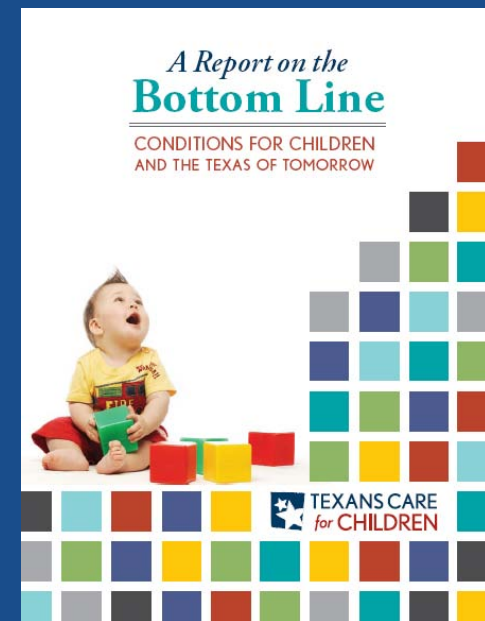


Coming Jan. 25:
A Report on the
Bottom Line
Conditions for Children
and the Texas of
Tomorrow

Infant Health Summit
1-4 p.m.

Jan. 24, 2011

FREE in the Capitol
Auditorium





Overview of Legislative Issues for 2011



**Sign on to
Texas
Forward
revenue
platform
at
txforward.org**

At a Glance

- Webinar covers bills filed through Friday, January 7th
- Texans Care is currently tracking 269 child-related bills of 1063 bills filed
 - Family Financial Security: 37
 - Child and Maternal Health: 73
 - Child Protection: 34
 - Child Mental Wellbeing: 50
 - Juvenile Justice: 66
- Webinar highlights major legislation and follow-up will include a list of all bills tracked
- Inclusion in this webinar does not indicate Texans Care's support or opposition to a bill

Family Financial Security

Children in Texas need food, shelter, and the basic hope that comes with seeing their families free from economic strain.

Important Bills to Watch

Regulation of Lending and Debt Management

- SB 141 by Eltife would regulate debt management service providers
- SB 143 by West & HB 212 by Rodriguez would regulate CSOs
- SB 251 by West & SB 253 by Davis & HB 410 Craddick would regulate extensions of consumer credit
- SB 254 by Davis would regulate extension of consumer credit to Texas National Guard and Armed Forces
- HB 213 by Rodriguez would impose further duties on mortgage servicers of residential mortgage loans
- HB 376 by Alonzo would limit use of credit scores in increasing business costs or interest

Family Financial Security

Important Bills to Watch

Increasing access to benefits

- SB 39 by Zaffirini would improve application and eligibility determination for certain benefits programs

Limiting access to benefits

- HB 293 by Berman would restrict individuals born in Texas whose parents are undocumented from receiving state benefits
- HB 474 by Lewis would restrict eligibility for certain public benefit programs

Family Financial Security

Important Bills to Watch

Promoting financial literacy

- SB 114 by Davis would expand financial literacy pilot program in public schools
- SB 290 by Watson would include financial literacy in certain public school math courses
- HB 399 by Castro would require teaching institutions to offer financial literacy

Family Financial Security

Important Bills to Watch

Gambling

- **HJR 41 Raymond proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing local elections to legalize eight-liners**
- **HJR 43 by Quintanilla proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing local elections to legalize gaming**
- **HB 382 by Menendez would authorize poker gaming**

Family Financial Security

Important Bills to Watch

Utility Assistance

- SB 69 by Zaffirini would reconstitute the system benefit fund as a trust fund
- SB 117 by Uresti would allow municipality-owned utility systems to fund a program to aid low-income customers
- SB 319 by Carona would reconstitute the system benefit fund to finance programs for electric customers
- HB 519 by Turner would reconstitute the system benefit fund to finance programs for electric customers

Family Financial Security

Important Bills to Watch

Unemployment benefits and services

- SB 92 by Lucio would adopt an alternative base period for computation of unemployment compensation
- SB 314 by Zaffirini would allow victims of sexual assault to be eligible for unemployment compensation for missed work related to the assault/threat of assault, as is the case for family violence
- HB 120 by Castro would establish unemployment services for child support obligors

Family Financial Security

Important Bills to Watch

Other

- SB 63 by Zaffirini would create a matched savings program (IDAs)
- HB 276 by Alonzo would increase the minimum wage
- HB 307 by Menendez would create a homeless housing program
- HB 324 by Johnson would study the outcomes of afterschool programs including impact on drop-out rates
- HB 448 by Lucio III would create a pilot where students could earn prepaid tuition credits by performing community service

Child and Maternal Health

Kids need a healthy environment to thrive, right from the start.

Coverage Bills to Watch: Eligibility



- **SB 33 by Zaffirini and HB 58 by Martinez** would extend children's Medicaid eligibility from 6 months to 1 year
- **SB 39 by Zaffirini** would improve the benefit application eligibility process by increasing capacity
- **HB 504 by Walle** would remove the asset check requirement from the eligibility determination process for children's Medicaid and CHIP

Child and Maternal Health

Coverage Bills, cont'd.

- **SB 120 by Uresti** would attempt to increase child dental coverage by adding a dental insurance requirement to child support orders
- **SB 293 by Watson and HB 70 Martinez** would expand Medicaid coverage to include telemedicine services/telehealth services
- **SB 325 by Van de Putte and HB 419 by Villarreal** would automatically enroll women whose pregnancy was covered by Medicaid into the Women's Health Waiver program

Child and Maternal Health

Coverage Bills, cont'd.

- **HB 293 by Berman** would prohibit children who are born to parents who are undocumented from receiving any state benefits
- **HB 474 by Lewis** would require applicants for benefits to complete an I-9 form and establish their identity to work in the U.S.
- **HB 636 by Zerwas** would create a state health care exchange in accordance with Federal health care reform, called the Texas Health Insurance Connector

Child and Maternal Health

Obesity Bills to Watch: Access to Nutrition

- **SB 89 by Lucio and HB 634 by Rodriguez** would expand summer nutrition programs by requiring school districts with 50% or more students eligible for free/reduced-priced lunch program to provide or arrange for a summer nutrition program
- **SB 184 by Nelson** would require the state to develop a plan for creating community food gardens on unused or substantially underused state property

Child and Maternal Health

Obesity Bills to Watch: Schools

- **SB 185 by Nelson** would require 30 minutes of physical activity for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students throughout the school year, versus the current 4 semesters (similar legislation = HB 280)
- **SB 186 by Nelson** would increase the P.E. requirement for high school graduation from one credit to one and one-half credits and **add one-half credit for Health, restoring requirements to 2009 levels (similar legislation = HB 281)**
- **SB 224 by Nelson** would establish a healthy schools recognition program for schools that successfully implement programs that encourage student health and fitness

Child and Maternal Health

Obesity Bills to Watch: Schools

- **SB 225 by Nelson** would require school campus improvement plans to address compliance with the Texas Public School Nutrition Policy, coordinated school health, and physical activity standards
- **SB 226 by Nelson** would require school districts to report individual student Fitnessgram results to the Texas Education Agency to allow fitness data to be correlated with academic data
- **HB 127 by Alvarado** would restrict the types of beverages that may be sold to students in public schools by only allowing milk, juice, and water with no added sweetener, with an exception for some sports drinks

Child and Maternal Health

Infant Bills to Watch

- **SB 229 by Nelson** would require all hospitals and birthing facilities to offer newborn hearing screenings, regardless of the population of the county (similar legislation = SB 270)



- **HB 411 by Laubenberg** would protect confidentiality by prohibiting the disclosure of newborn records for forensic science or health insurance underwriting without consent

Child and Maternal Health

Texans Care Priority Bills, Pending

- Requirement that hospitals report non-medically indicated Cesarean section deliveries and labor inductions before 39 weeks to Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
- Hospital policies that would support breastfeeding
- Promote continuum of care for premature infants, a population at high risk of rehospitalization, by creating a task force to develop a standard discharge planning tool
- A penny-per-ounce excise tax on sugary drinks would curb consumption and raise revenue for school-based obesity prevention programs, like coordinated school health

Child Protection

Texas children must be safe from abuse and neglect. Those removed from their homes need support from caring adults.

Bills to Watch



SB 218 by Nelson would:

- Require CPS to seek custody of a child under age 11 who has an STD,
- Waive driver license fee for foster youth,
- Prevent CPS from requiring parent services after case is closed, and
- Require protective order training for employees, and
- Direct DFPS to move forward with Foster Care Redesign.

Child Protection

Bills, cont'd.

Foster Care

- **SB 63 by Zaffirini** would provide matched savings accounts to families working with Family Based Safety Services (FBSS).
- **SB 269 by Uresti** would require that the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) provide the “Foster Care Bill of Rights” to all youth in care.
- **SB 219 Nelson** would expand the trauma-training provided to DFPS staff to foster parents, kinship caregivers, adoptive parents.

Child Protection

Bills, cont'd.

Aging Out of Care

- **HB 452 by Lucio III** would ensure colleges and universities provide support to foster care alumni in need of housing between academic terms.
- **SB 277 by Wendy Davis** would require DFPS to release the full case record to a child exiting foster care, no later than 30 days before discharge.
- **SB 502 by Kleinshmidt** would extend foster care payments for youth over the age of 18. Additionally, DFPS would pay up until the last day of the month a youth turns 22.

Child Protection

Bills, cont'd.

Foster Care Rates

- **HB 420 by Alonzo** would require DFPS to provide adoption subsidy to an adoptive parent whose family income is less than 300% of the federal poverty level.
- **SB 151 by Raymond** would require DFPS to pay relative caregivers at the same daily rate of basic foster care.

Legal Issues

- **HB 436 by Parker** would allow foster parents to seek adoption after a child has been in their home for at least 6 months.
- **HB 121 by Castro** would allow more distant relatives to seek custody of child.

Child Protection

Bills, cont'd.

Abuse and Neglect Prevention

- **SB 250 by Zaffirini** would expand the legal grounds for a minor seeking a protective order, to include a minor victim of stalking.
- **SB 324 by Johnson** would require the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to conduct a study of public and private after-school programs to determine effectiveness.

Child Protection

Bills, cont'd.

Human Trafficking

SB 98 by Van de Putte would expand definition of forced labor, sexual exploitation of minors, and continuous trafficking of person. Supports the continued efforts of the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force. (similar bills = HB 195 by Nelson, HB 290 by Jackson, HB 36 by Menendez)

Criminal Background

- **SB 221 by Nelson** would allow DFPS to obtain criminal history from individuals that are employed, volunteer or contracted with DFPS.
- **SB 76 by Nelson** would require unregulated self-arranged child care providers to complete a criminal background check.

Child Protection

Texans Care Priority Bills, Pending

Improve front-end assessments of children entering the child welfare system to promote successful placement and appropriate services by creating a state-level clinician taskforce to develop a menu of tools approved for assessments and to develop guidelines for what must be included in assessment reports.

Child Mental Wellbeing

Mental health promotion, prevention, and treatment are key to help children and youth reach their potential.

Bills to Watch



In the School System:

- **HB 284 by Lucio III would limit counselors' non-counseling activities**
- HB 285 by Lucio III would lower counselor to student ratios from 1:500 to 1:300.

Child Mental Wellbeing

Bills to Watch

In the School System:

- **HB 348 by Walle would require school security personnel to receive training, with content that includes:**
 - **child development/psychology**
 - **positive behavioral intervention and supports**
 - **children with special needs**
 - **cultural competency**

Child Mental Wellbeing

Bills to Watch

In the School System:

- **HB 387 by S. Turner would give parents of special education student right to take off work to meet with school about student**
- **SB 291 by Watson would move alcohol awareness requirements from Health to Science curriculum**

Child Mental Wellbeing

Bills to Watch

In the School System:

- **SB 242 by W. Davis & HB 224 by Strama would require school staff to receive training preventing, identifying and responding to bullying. Bills would also allow schools to transfer student engaged in bullying activities to be moved to another class or campus**
- **HB 130 by Alvarado would require DFPS to create a bullying hotline/website for students to report incidents**

Child Mental Wellbeing

Bills to Watch

Training Initiatives:

- **SB 219 by Nelson would expand training related to trauma informed care in child welfare system (parents, caregivers, health providers)**
- **SB 265 by Zaffirini would create standards on who can train child care staff and require training content to be age-appropriate & relevant**

Child Mental Wellbeing

Bills to Watch

Training Initiatives, cont'd.:

- **SB 260 by West would increase the number of pre-service and annual training hours child care employees must have**
- **SB 265 by Zaffirini would create standards on who can train child care staff and require training content to be age-appropriate & relevant**

Child Mental Wellbeing

Bills to Watch

Psychotropic Medication:

- SB 47 by Nelson would prohibit standing orders to administer psychotropic medications in residential facilities, unless in emergency or by court order
- Bill would also require staff in residential facilities to attend training related to patients' right to consent to treatment, alternative methods to calm residents, and proper administration of psychotropic medication

Child Mental Wellbeing

Bills to Watch

Identifying Quality Child Care:

- SB 264 by Zaffirini would require local workforce boards to provide information on quality child-care indicators for each child care provider in their region

Respectful Language Initiative:

- SB 26 by Zaffirini would require the use of “person first” respectful language by the Legislature and state agencies when referring to individuals with disabilities, including persons with mental illness

Child Mental Wellbeing

Bills to Watch

Regional Cross-System Coordination:

- **SB 206 by Van de Putte & HB 35 by Menendez would extend a project that created a cross-system coordinated behavioral health intervention pilot for children in Bexar County until 2012**

Child Mental Wellbeing

Pending Proposals: Texans Care Priorities

- **Develop and implement a state action plan that aligns state policies to support local level implementation of school-wide positive behavioral interventions and supports (SW-PBIS)**
- **Require private insurance coverage of early childhood intervention services and for treatment for serious emotional disturbances in children & youth which interfere with their functioning at home, school or community**

Juvenile Justice

Kids who make mistakes can turn their lives around, and Texas can prevent young offenders from growing into adult criminals.

School Discipline Bills to Watch



SB 183 by Wentworth would require school districts to place students in DAEP for harassing or threatening behavior toward teachers.

SB 217 by Huffman would allow a school district to expel a student for breaching the security of a school computer or network.

Juvenile Justice

School Discipline Bills to Watch, cont'd.

- **HB 24 by Guillen** would allow schools to place students in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) for harassment using electronic devices either on campus or with school equipment.
- **HB 169 by Raymond** would require schools with ROTC programs to send eligible students to ROTC instead of a DAEP or JJAEP.
- **HB 170 by Raymond** would require schools to place students who engage in bullying into DAEP.

Juvenile Justice

School Discipline Bills to Watch, cont'd.

- **HB 195 by Walle** would change “serious or persistent misbehavior” to “serious **and** persistent misbehavior” in a DAEP as grounds for a student to be expelled and referred to juvenile court.
- **HB 622 by Hochberg** would narrow a school district’s ability to expel a student from a DAEP in the same manner as HB 195 above **and** by defining behaviors considered “serious and persistent.” Districts currently have discretion in defining this category of behavior.

Juvenile Justice

School Discipline Accountability

- **SB 48 by Zaffirini** would require school districts to report to TEA on disciplinary actions and placements.
- **SB 49 by Zaffirini** would require school districts to notify parents of students placed in DAEPs how the student can finish required school work in order to graduate.
- **SB 207 by Gallegos** and **HB 196 by Walle**; would require students to provide documentation when leaving a school in order to ensure more accurate dropout rates.
- **HB 349 by Walle** would require school districts to track and report on restraints and Class C misdemeanor tickets written to students.

Juvenile Justice

Mental Health-Juvenile Justice Bills to watch

- **HB 164 by Raymond** would allow judges to order chemical dependency screenings on any youth in the juvenile justice system. Currently, judges can require mental health screenings.

Juvenile Justice

Texans Care Priority Bills, Pending

- Proposal would require school districts that disproportionately refer students of color or special education students to DAEP to develop and implement a remediation plan.
- Proposal would house youth certified to stand trial as an adult in juvenile facilities; make categories of adult certification offenses and opportunities for judicial review consistent with those of determinate sentenced youth, and provide judges with more tools to use with offenders age 19-21.

Juvenile Justice

Other Bills to Watch: Pending

Sunset :Texas Youth Commission & Texas Juvenile Probation Commission

- Proposed Sunset Bill would abolish the Texas Youth Commission and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and transfer the agencies' functions to a new state agency, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.
- The new Juvenile Justice Department would be created and begin on September 1, 2012 with the mission of prioritizing local probation above state commitment.

Other Children's Bills to Watch

Children with Disabilities



- **SB 87 by Lucio** would require TEA to create “Professional Development Institutes” for teachers and para-professionals relating to research-based services for students with disabilities
- **SB 54 by Zaffirini** would strengthen credentials for teachers of children with visual impairments
- **SB 157 by Williams** would create school choice vouchers for some students with disabilities

Other Children's Bills to Watch

Children with Disabilities, cont'd.

- **HB 283 by Lucio** would increase the accessibility of all new and renovated public playgrounds for children in wheelchairs
- **HB 402 by Fletcher** would add dyscalculia—difficulty with math—to the Education Code in the same way that dyslexia is handled

Other Children's Bills to Watch

Bills to Watch: Resources for Children

- **SB 165 by Shapiro** would require the Sunset review process to use a zero-based budget where the budget for every activity of a state agency would have to be justified (similar = HB 187 by Perry)
- **HB 458 by White** would exempt school districts from complying with any state laws that the Legislature does not provide funding to implement (HJR 46 by White, constitutional amendment)

Other Children's Bills to Watch

Bills to Watch: Child Wellbeing

- **HCR 30 by Dutton** would request the University of Texas to lead a study by several Texas public universities to examine how young black males in Texas are affected by the benefits and detriments of living in Texas.

Other Children's Bills to Watch

Bills to Watch: Child Safety

- **SB 268 by Uresti** would raise the legal age to buy tobacco from 18 to 19.
- **HB 337 by Johnson** would require TXDOT to work w DFPS and DPS to develop a public awareness plan, using existing resources, about dangers of leaving a child in a closed care during hot weather. Messages would be displayed via electronic alert signs on highways.

Other Children's Bills to Watch

Bills to Watch: Child Immigrants

- **HB 22 by Riddle** would require school districts to determine every child's citizenship and immigration status and report the data to TEA, which would analyze the data for educational impact based on immigration status
- **HB 292 by Berman** would restrict birth certificates for newborns who do not have at least one U.S. citizen parent, creating a new "temporary report of alien birth"
- **HB 464 by Kleinschmidt** would change in-state residency for public colleges and universities so that undocumented students would be ineligible for in-state tuition, even if they meet the current requirement of graduating from a Texas high school and living in Texas for 3 years



Questions?

Contact Us!

Eileen Garcia

egarcia@txchildren.org

Josette Saxton

jsaxton@txchildren.org

Lauren Dimitry

ldimitry@txchildren.org

Jodie Smith

jsmith@txchildren.org

Lauren Rose

lrose@txchildren.org

Ashley Harris

aharris@txchildren.org

512-473-2274

www.txchildren.org

*Special thanks to our coalition member Any Baby Can-Austin
for many of the photos featured in our presentation.*



TEXANS CARE
for **CHILDREN**