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Via electronic submission to :
[TX Medicaid Waivers@hsc.state.tx.us](mailto:TX_Medicaid_Waivers@hsc.state.tx.us)

Texas Health and Human Services Commission
Attention: Amanda Sablan,
Waiver Coordinator, Policy Development Support,
PO Box 13247, Mail Code H-600,
Austin, Texas 78711-3247

Dear Ms. Sablan:

On behalf of our more than 470 member hospitals and health systems, including rural, urban, children's, teaching and specialty hospitals, the Texas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Texas Health & Human Services Commission's "fast track" 1115 Waiver application. THA supports THHSC's fast track application to extend Texas' current 1115 Waiver for an additional five years. Texas' extension request would extend the current 1115 Waiver through Sept. 30, 2027

The 1115 Waiver, which is set to expire on September 30, 2022, has been a successful method to expand Medicaid managed care in Texas, coordinate care and ensure Medicaid and uninsured patients have access to hospital and community care. The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented and alarming impact on our healthcare system, especially for Texas hospitals. This extension gives Texas flexibility and time to transition the DSRIP successes and pursue and build new programs to support hospitals, health care providers and patients. This extension would offer the state stability to continue operating the Medicaid program, the Medicaid managed care program and providing care for beneficiaries as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. THA strongly supports keeping the current funding in the waiver, moving toward a system that reflects the actual cost of care, and continued funding of uncompensated care costs. In addition, THA continues to support the separate waiver request to extend DSRIP for one year.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We look forward to working with you on these issues. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at rschirmer@tha.org or 512/465-1056.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Schirmer".

Richard Schirmer, FACHE, FHFMA
Vice President, Health Care Policy Analysis
Texas Hospital Association