



Coalitions Urge Opposition to  
Governor's Harmful Legislative Priorities

## **TAKE ACTION: CONTACT YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES TO VOTE:**

**NO** to red-baiting private school vouchers, bigoted immigration, and anti-COVID-19 vaccination policy priorities. **YES**, to public school funding, teacher pay, and Medicaid Expansion. Contact your state representatives and get involved with Coalition advocates (see below).

The [Governors' legislative priorities](#) do not invest in creating social and economic opportunities for Texans, disproportionately hurting Latino families and children. The following highlights the governor's harmful and wasteful tax dollar priorities and several statewide Coalitions advocating to prevent their passage. They propose, instead, equity-based legislation that invests in our public schools and teachers, healthcare access, and immigration positions that are supportive and rational.

## **CONTACT COALITIONS BELOW ON TARGETED BILLS & ADVOCACY EFFORTS**

### **Public School Vouchers**

Don't believe the 'parental choice' rhetoric – it's more parents without a say or choice. Private school vouchers perpetuate inequities in education funding support and quality education for all children. [Senate Bill 1](#) would allow families access to \$10,000 of taxpayer money to pay for private schools and other educational expenses such as uniforms, textbooks, tutoring or transportation.

In Texas, school vouchers will predominantly assist financially secure White families with a subsidy to send their children to a private church-based school with no public accountability. In contrast, children of color, who comprise 71% of public school enrollment, will have even less financially supported quality public school access.

The [Texas Legislative Education Equity Coalition](#) (TLEEC) priorities for protecting and promoting justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in education are what's best for our children and Texas' future.

Contact [Chloe Sikes](#) with any questions and to engage with TLEEC advocates.

### **Healthcare Access**

The Governor, Attorney General, and legislative leadership level of denialism and misinformation regarding the seriousness of the epidemic and the COVID-19 vaccine contribute to the suffering and death of thousands of Texans. Combined with Texas continually having the highest health insurance rate in the country worsened the health impacts, particularly on Latino and Black communities. Latinos comprise approximately 58% of the state's uninsured population – 2.5 million uninsured Latinos.

Despite irrefutable health and economic benefits, and broad-based community support, Texas has opposed Medicaid Expansion over the past 5 legislative sessions. Further, the Texas Department of Health and Human Services (TDHHS) has disenrolled over 1.2 million Texans, most children (2 of 3 are Latino) from existing Medicaid insurance coverage – despite ample opportunity to provide an

efficient and effective enrollment process after continuous coverage ended following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The [Cover Texas Now](#) (CTN) coalition continues to be an advocate and collaborative community advocacy for legislators to support Medicaid Expansion. There is a direct link between health and one of the most cherished American values: equality of improved [health and economic opportunity](#). Research shows specifically that access to Medicaid reduces infant mortality, improves children's graduation rates, and improves health in the long term. Not surprisingly, it also increases upward economic mobility.

If Texas expanded its Medicaid program, 1,432,900 uninsured nonelderly adults would become eligible for coverage, 34% of the state's uninsured mostly working nonelderly adult population.

Reach out to [Stacy Pogue](#) with any questions and to engage with CTN health advocates.

### **Immigration**

Over the past two decades, Texas has increasingly become more nativist, villainized immigrants, spending over 5 billion taxpayer dollars on inhuman, illegal border security and ineffective legislation to stop the migrant 'invasion'. Governor Perry (2000-2015) and Governor Abbott have led the charge against immigrants, particularly Mexicans.

Today, 'Operation Lone Star' is the cornerstone of state rights justifying White Supremacy policy action against federal immigration policies. Indeed, Texas is a national leader and arguably #1 among states in anti-immigrant dogma and destructive human rights policy actions. Since 2020, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has brought 20 lawsuits to federal court, 11 of which concern various immigration-related policy issues.

Immigrants are a vital part of Texas' economy. In 2019, they comprised 17.1% (4.9 million) of the state's population, of which nearly 65% are Latino. Over two-thirds of the population are between the work-productive ages of 18 - 64. Their consumer spending power totaled 120.3 billion dollars, and they paid 40.6 billion dollars in local, state, and federal taxes. Immigrants are significant economic contributors to every Congressional District. Their contributions as farmworkers, caregivers, construction and hospitality workers, health professionals, and entrepreneurs span the state.

The [TRUST](#) is a coalition of business, religious, and advocacy organizations that value immigrant Texans as vital neighbors and productive community members. Texas state leaders must collaborate with federal immigration policymaking, and state-level policies must recognize immigrants as Texans deserving of equal opportunities to thrive as they contribute to our state's economy.

Senate Bill 11, targeted to create a state-level felony for improper entry, exemplifies but one of several anti-immigrant bills to be part of the Special Session. If you have not joined a Signal text group and want to stay updated on immigrant-related bills as they move, [please click this link from your phone](#). Also, you can email [Fatima Menendez](#) or [Jaime Puente](#) with questions.