



# Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

**Meeting Date:** February 19, 2013

**Prepared By/Phone Number:** Juanita Jackson 854-4467

**Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:** Sherri E. Fleming,  
County Executive for Health and Human Services and Veterans Service

**Commissioners Court Sponsor:** Judge Samuel T. Biscoe and  
Commissioner Sara Eckhardt

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Proclamation in Support of Full Expansion of Medicaid Services to Texas Residents.

**BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:**

Please see proposed proclamation attached.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Staff recommends approval of this proclamation.

**ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:**

Please see proposed proclamation attached.

**FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

Approving this request will not increase the County Budget.

**REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:**

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to the County Judge's office, [agenda@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:agenda@co.travis.tx.us) by **Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.** for the next week's meeting.

# Travis County Commissioners Court



# Proclamation

WHEREAS, approximately 6 million Texans (23% of the population) had no health insurance in 2011, the highest uninsured rate of any state in the nation;

WHEREAS, in 2010, 29 million Americans were underinsured, meaning they have health insurance, but their out-of-pocket medical expenses exceeded 10% of income, among those below 200% of the federal poverty level their out-of-pocket medical expenses exceeded 5% of income, or the per person deductible for the insurance plan exceeded 5% of income;

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey, 209,348 residents in Travis County were uninsured in 2011;

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid would potentially ensure that 1.5 million more Texans, including 55,676 Travis County residents, would be added to the insured population by 2017;

WHEREAS, Medicaid already helps approximately 2.7 million Texas children, but covers only about 945,000 adults (primarily seniors and the disabled). In Texas 13.2% of children (0-18) and 30.9% of adults (18-64) were uninsured in 2011, and in Travis County 10.6% of children and 25.0% of adults were uninsured;

WHEREAS, getting uninsured adults health insurance coverage is one of the best things we can do to ensure the economic stability and future of Texas families;

WHEREAS, the federal government will cover the entire cost of expanding Medicaid for the first three years, will pay no less than 90% of the total thereafter, and from 2014-2017 expansion will bring \$24 billion in federal revenue to Texas for just \$1.3 billion in state investment;

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid would add \$224.1 million in annual Medicaid funds to Travis County;

WHEREAS, each dollar spent expanding Medicaid in Texas would result in a \$1.29 increase in state revenue, a 51 cent increase in local government revenue, and a saving to local governments of \$1.21 for investments for uncompensated care;

WHEREAS, preventive care will become available for newly eligible Medicaid participants who access medical services, saving both money and lives; and

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid will significantly reduce the current \$1.8 billion in annual private hospital charity care costs, which are traditionally passed on to customers with health insurance, thus translating to better premium value for Texans with private health insurance by lowering costs for everyone.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Travis County Commissioner Court finds that Medicaid Expansion is in the best interests of County taxpayers and strongly encourages the Governor and State Legislature of Texas to participate in the expansion of Medicaid coverage to all newly eligible Texas U.S. citizen adults in accordance with the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

ADOPTED THIS THE \_\_\_\_ DAY OF FEBRUARY OF 2013.

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Samuel T. Biscoe, Travis County Judge

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Ron Davis  
Commissioner Precinct 1

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Sarah Eckhardt  
Commissioner Precinct 2

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Gerald Daugherty  
Commissioner Precinct 3

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Margaret Gómez  
Commissioner Precinct 4