

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Cecelia Hartley](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 12, 2014 1:49:09 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 12:58 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 - 12:57

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Amanda

Last Name: Hernandez

Title: EMT, homemaker, parent, grassroots organizer, Democratic Party Precinct Chair for Precinct 883

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Houston

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

I SUPPORT the REPEAL of the AFFILIATE BAN, which affects the health of many low income families and individuals, myself included.

This is my personal testimony:

I haven't had health insurance in three years. I worry about my IUD moving and hurting me (Lucky for me I was able to afford Planned Parenthood services to get it checked this year, but it was an expense that was hard to fit into the budget without risking over drafting). I just have to hope that any ache, pain, or problem I have isn't something serious. I fear if something happens to me what my 5 and 3 year old and my spouse would do without me if my health were to go south and there was no coverage for a surgery or other life saving medical treatment. I worry the longer I go without preventative care something might be missed until it's too late.

There are many families that face these same challenges, and worries. Sometimes these fears become a living nightmare when they are become a reality and their health does in fact deteriorate with no help in site from a broken system that leaves so many millions in Texas uninsured or unassisted.

Without medicaid my children would not be able to see the doctor or get their much needed shots/vaccines.

I am a healthcare worker who hasn't been able to work because of low wages that could not pay for quality early childhood care even with TWO parents working full time.

I've been forced to stay at home at poverty level income for a family of 4.

If you don't want to help the poor with access to healthcare, can you at least fight for them to have decent wages so they can afford their own coverage? I hear it's good for your health to make enough money to support yourself and family for all their needs. I digress

I can't afford to speak for myself, for a trip to Austin would break the bank (or break our car which is too old to survive the miles), and I have a child who only get's half a day of pre-school so it is impossible for me to be there.

SO MANY POOR, LOW INCOME, FAMILIES ARE AFFECTED BY THIS AND CANNOT AFFORD TO BE THERE TO SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES! They don't have access to the internet either to submit their testimony as I am fortunate enough to be able to just afford to pay for. They are too busy trying to survive to stay informed because they work long hours with no end in site in a system where upward mobility is indeed the "American Dream" because it is a rare reality.

Will you speak for them? Will you represent them?

I challenge to those republican's who claim to be "pro life and respect all life" to please prove that they indeed respect ALL LIFE by making sure the poor aren't left without healthcare.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:  
Please take care of all of this:

- 1) Repeal the affiliate ban.
- 2) Attempt to recapture the federal 9-1 match.
- 3) In accordance with the Sunset Commission recommendations, extend fee-for-service (uncapped) funding to Texas teens.
- 4) Protect is the inclusion of undocumented immigrants.
- 5) Funding for men's sexual and reproductive health is not addressed and Men need STI screening, health checkups, and vasectomy services, too. There should be a separate funding mechanism for them and their needs.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree