

Sunset Advisory Commission

From:

Sent:

To: Sunset Advisory Commission

Subject: Health and Human Services: Affiliate Ban

Dear Sunset Advisory Commission,

Since the Affiliate Ban closed numerous family planning and reproductive health clinics throughout the state, costing the state its nine to one federal matching funds and leaving some counties without providers and millions of women without their primary source of basic health care, further problems have come to light with the three new programs the legislature created in 2011.

Providers don't always know if they're part of one of the three programs, and each program has different criteria. For patients, the fees are often much higher than before and they're less likely to get follow up care.

Please recommend that the legislature repeal the Affiliate Ban and return to compliance with the federal 9-1 matching program, bringing that money back to the state to support the huge, unmet needs for women's health care. Further recommend that uncapped fee-for-service funding be extended to Texas teens, protect access to women's health care regardless of immigration status, and identify a funding mechanism for men's health care, including STI screenings, elective vasectomies, and basic checkups.

Thank you.

Sincerely,