



Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce

April 25, 2017

Resolution of the Governing Board in support of House Bill 2864, which relates to the provision of on-campus mental health services by a school districts and reimbursement under Medicaid for certain services provided to eligible students.

House Bill 2864, introduced by Representative Joe Moody, would help children with mental health issues in public school districts obtain better and easier access to mental healthcare services. Students attending rural, small and socio-economically disadvantaged school districts have been the most negatively impacted by the lack of immediate access to mental health professionals. The need for such services has drastically increased in the past decade and it is crucial for the Texas Legislature to take the necessary steps and measures to address the issue.

HB 2864 does not impose on school districts, but it gives them the choice to enter into contracts with local mental health authorities and establish on-campus mental health services. The services provided under this program will receive a reimbursement through the Medical Assistance Program under Chapter 32 of the Human Services Code. This bill's goals bring to life actions recommended by the House's Select Committee on Mental Health, a body for which Representative Moody served as vice chair.

Many public school students, especially those from socio-economically disadvantage districts, do not have the adequate resources to obtain the proper mental and behavioral treatment. Furthermore, this bill works in conjunction with the state's efforts to provide Mental Health First Aid training to school employees. Treatment for students in need would be even more accessible with on-campus services. Representative Moody's bill addresses some of those issues, as it gives Texas school children the opportunity to receive the treatment they need and deserve, at no cost to the families of students receiving treatment.

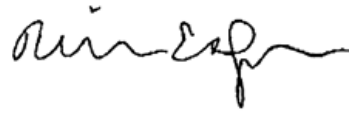
The program that is going to be created under HB 2864 will be extremely beneficial for communities like El Paso. It will give at-risk students the chance to receive treatment in a timely fashion which will, subsequently, help reduce rates in drug and alcohol abuse. The passage of this bill will put the El Paso community and the state in the right direction, and will further enhance the efforts in raising awareness of mental health illnesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce supports the enactment of House Bill 2864, as it calls for the establishment of on-campus mental health services in school districts.

This resolution was presented to and passed by the Governing Board of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.



Jack T. Chapman
Chairman of the Board



Richard E. Dayoub
President and CEO