

2019 State and Federal Healthcare Legislative Landscape

2019 UT Health Law Conference



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Politics 101

A politician's first duty is **NOT** first do no harm, it **IS** to get reelected

Politics is the art of the possible

Legislative reforms are **reactive not proactive** – changes occur after, not before the proverbial train wreck, plane crash, biblical storm, financial meltdown – you get the picture.

Refresher on Texas Government

- Only thing the Legislature is constitutionally required to do – pass a balanced budget
- \$119.1 billion available 2020-2021, 8.1% more than current budget
- \$15 billion in Rainy Day fund



86th Texas Legislature



- New Speaker of the House of Representatives
- New committee leadership
- More bipartisanship?
- 7,476 bills and resolutions filed
- Emphasis on school finance, property tax reform and Hurricane Harvey relief

Health Care Issues – The Lights are On, But Nobody's Home



- Little to no discussion of coverage expansion
- No new state \$\$\$ going into health care services
- 1115 waiver expiring late 2020

Health Policy Has Largely Been Federalized

- **Pipeline**
Emphasis on 1.1 to 1 ratio of 1st year GME positions to medical school graduates & loan repayment
- **Scope of Practice**
Who wants to play doctor vs. efficiency improvements for team-based care
- **Public Health**
Tobacco 21, immunizations, obesity, social determinants of health
- **Delivery System & Payment Reform**
Medicaid managed care reform, Value-based payment initiatives, payment for telemedicine services, balance billing

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