

# 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



## 86<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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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## Title search: 2019 State and Federal Healthcare Legislative Landscape

Also available as part of the eCourse

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First appeared as part of the conference materials for the  
31<sup>st</sup> Annual Health Law Conference session

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