2019 State and Federal Healthcare Legislative Landscape

2019 UT Health Law Conference

Freddy Warner
Chief Government Relations Officer
Memorial Hermann Health System

Tom Banning
Chief Executive Officer/Executive Vice President
Texas Academy of Family Physicians

Steve Wohleb
Senior Vice President and General Counsel
Texas Hospital Association

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

- 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

Title search: 2019 State and Federal Healthcare Legislative Landscape

Also available as part of the eCourse
[2019 Health Law eConference](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the
31st Annual Health Law Conference session
"2019 State and Federal Healthcare Legislative Landscape"