



# CITY OF HOUSTON

**Sylvester Turner**

Mayor

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March 24, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
1237 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader McConnell:

The Houston Health Department (HHD) in coordination with multiple local public health entities has been a strong participant in the State of Texas' 1115 Waiver transition plan for the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment program.

Given the effects we are experiencing in Texas regarding the global pandemic of coronavirus (COVID 19), HHD and others, want to ensure that Local Health Departments (LHDs) remain a vital part of the healthcare delivery system and continue to contribute to the improving health and protecting the safety of our local community and the state.

Now is not the time to cut public health programs.

In December of 2017, CMS approved funding for the DSRIP through September 30, 2021 with the waiver extended through September 30, 2022. I would request that additional funding for all public health programs under DSRIP be allocated for October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 and that the waiver extension period be extended to October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. Providers succeeded in achieving 1115 waiver outcome goals, including goals related to diabetes and high blood pressure control, reducing emergency department visits for ambulatory care sensitive conditions, and reducing the risk-adjusted congestive heart failure hospital readmission rate.

A total of 21 Local Health Departments (LHD) are currently participated in the Waiver. On average, for LHDs participating in Wavier 2.0, 500,827 Texans received clinical, immunizations, or other services (as defined by the agency's system definition) at LHDs. Of this total 74.78% (374,517) are either Medicaid recipients, low-income, or uninsured.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sylvester Turner".

Sylvester Turner  
Mayor