

TEXAS LEFT ME OUT

A Campaign of the Cover Texas Now Coalition

February 5, 2014

Texas Legislature

Dear State Legislator,

We are writing as members of Cover Texas Now - a coalition of consumer and faith-based organizations- and other supportive partners that desire to see the state of Texas implement a sustainable health care system and provide quality affordable health coverage to its citizens.

We are writing to announce the launch of our latest campaign, Texas Left Me Out.

Texas has the highest rate of uninsured people in the United States –over six million Texans are uninsured. And consistent with the nation's new health law's purposes to improve health outcomes and reduce costs, every person is to have a way to access affordable and quality health care. But Texas' decision that resulted in the loss of billions of federal dollars that could have expanded health coverage left more than one million Texans in a coverage gap. Texas adults above the poverty line will get publicly funded financial assistance for their health coverage, while those Texans below the poverty line will qualify for nothing.

So, if a constituent contacts your office upset that he or she falls into the coverage gap and does not qualify for financial assistance, please encourage them to fill out the forms at our site, www.TexasLeftMeOut.org, or at our Spanish-language site, www.TejasMeDejoAtras.org.

Hundreds of thousands of Texans currently trying to sign up for health coverage are being denied the financial assistance that is available to millions of Americans in other states. This includes veterans and their spouses, as well as workers in construction, child care, health care, and service industries. Many of the people taking newly created jobs in Texas won't qualify.

Here's an example: imagine two uninsured parents, each with two children. The first uninsured parent, earning \$17,000 a year, will receive no financial assistance for health coverage, while the second uninsured parent, earning \$20,000 a year, will qualify for full health coverage on a sliding scale for \$33-per-month or less.

Our Texas Left Me Out campaign is collecting stories from Texans from across the state and letting them know what options are available for coverage. We are also educating them about how the coverage gap got created, who can fix it and how they can get involved to close the gap.

TEXAS LEFT ME OUT

A Campaign of the Cover Texas Now Coalition

As we work to get more Texans enrolled for health coverage and receiving the benefits of the new health care law, we hope your office will assist those Texans most in need of care. Again, if you receive any questions or concerns from your constituents who fall into the health coverage gap and do not qualify for financial assistance, please have them fill out the forms at our website, www.TexasLeftMeOut.org, or at our Spanish-language site, www.TexasMeDejoAtras.org. You can also have them call 866-697-3155 or text “Leftout,” or “Cobertura” in Spanish, to 30644 to connect to the campaign.

Thank you for your hard work and efforts. We look forward to working with you throughout 2014 to ensure every Texan has access to quality, affordable health care.

Sincerely,

Accessible Housing Austin!

ADAPT of Texas

Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation

Center for Public Policy Priorities

Children’s Defense Fund of Texas

CHRISTUS Health

CitySquare

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

Community Advancement Network

Consumers Union

Dallas Area Interfaith

Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council

Direct Care Alliance

Doctors for America

Easter Seals Central Texas

Easter Seals Rio Grande Valley

Equal Voices Network Health Working Group

TEXAS LEFT ME OUT

A Campaign of the Cover Texas Now Coalition

Foundation Communities

Gateway to Care

Health Care for All Texas

Healthcare Committee of Collin County

Healthy Futures of Texas

La Union del Pueblo Entero

Legacy Community Health Services

Mental Health America of Texas

Methodist Healthcare Ministries

MomsRising

National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas

National Association of Social Workers-Texas

National Council of Jewish Women – Texas State Policy Advocacy Network

National Physicians Alliance

Nuestra Clinica del Valle

Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce

Personal Attendant Coalition of Texas

Proyecto Azteca

San Antonio Nonprofit Council

Seton Healthcare Family

Texans Care for Children

Texans Together Education Fund

Texas AFL-CIO

Texas Impact

Texas Organizing Project

TEXAS LEFT ME OUT

A Campaign of the Cover Texas Now Coalition

Texas Pediatric Society

Texas State Teachers Association

Texas Well & Healthy

Young Invincibles