



American
Heart
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Heart Health & Public Policy

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Legislative Updates

88th Legislative Session Underway...

- Top AHA Priorities: CPR/AED Training, Nutrition and SNAP, and Access to Care.
- **CPR/AED Training:** Requesting the legislature appropriate 1.85m/year over the biennium to support hand-on CPR and AED training in schools.
- **Nutrition/SNAP:** Incentivize healthy food purchases and reduce barriers to enrollment in SNAP.
- **Access to Care:** Support policies that increase access to comprehensive care, like expansion of Medicaid and extending the period of postpartum care under Medicaid .
- **Other Issues:** Tobacco Control, Local Control/Preemption,



Texas

2022-2023 Public Policy Agenda

To be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives.

- **School CPR Training:** Secure funding to assist school districts in implementing the existing state requirement that all students receive instruction in high-quality CPR before graduation, prioritizing rural and high-need schools.
- **Nutrition Security:** Secure funding to offer Texans who receive benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Access Program incentives to purchase healthy fruits and vegetables. Modernize the vehicle asset test to reduce barriers to enrollment for eligible SNAP recipients.
- **Maternal Health:** Improve access to care by implementing 12 months of comprehensive post-partum health coverage under Medicaid.
- **Hypertension Control:** Support legislation to develop and strengthen a statewide system for hypertension control, with a focus on high-quality education and outreach services.
- **Tobacco Control:** Increase resources available to the Department of State Health Services to protect Texans from the harmful effects of tobacco and support those struggling to quit. Implement an effective tax rate on e-cigarettes. Strengthen standards to ensure retailers across Texas are following applicable laws and reducing the incidence of sales to minors.
- **Access to Care:** Implement comprehensive health insurance coverage for millions of uninsured Texans by expanding Medicaid coverage. Oppose efforts to enact new barriers to care or offer new insurance-like products that do not guarantee comprehensive care.
- **Local Control:** Protect the ability of cities and counties to pass measures that are the most effective in improving the public health of their own communities.

For Questions or More Information, Please Contact:
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School CPR & AED Training

Implementation Funding

- More than 350,000 people experience an SCA each year. Immediate intervention can double or triple survival rates.
- Education Code §28.0023: students must practice hands-on CPR and AED training using evidence-based guidelines and incorporating psychomotor skills to support cognitive learning. This requirement was passed in 2013 as HB 897.
- Staff turnover, wear-and-tear on equipment, and pandemic effects mean that many students are not receiving high-quality training.
- Requesting the legislature appropriate funds to support training needs including contract services, instructional materials, certification of school staff, etc.

ABOUT 7000 YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 6-19 EXPERIENCE SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST EVERY YEAR...



with nearly 20% of incidents happening out of the home, often on the court or field.

Every 3 days, a young athlete experiences cardiac arrest caused by a ball or blunt object striking the chest.



MORE THAN 350,000 PEOPLE HAVE CARDIAC ARREST OUTSIDE OF A HOSPITAL EVERY YEAR.



Only about 1 in 10 survive, usually because they don't receive timely resuscitation. Given right away, CPR doubles or triples survival rates.

SNAP Healthy Food Incentives

Addressing nutrition insecurity

- SNAP Incentive programs work by providing SNAP participants with matching coupons or discounts when they spend their benefits on healthy fruits and vegetables. Nearly two-thirds of all participants are children, elderly, and people with disabilities.
- Can increase spending on fruits and vegetables in grocery stores, which generates economic growth for local merchants and farmers. Every \$5 spent using SNAP generates as much as \$9 in economic activity.
- Recent appropriations in OK, LA, and MS to establish similar programs.
- Working closely with the Sustainable Food Center on this effort.

According to HHSC's 2020 Study on SNAP Fruit and Vegetables Incentives in Texas, a 30-cent incentive per \$1.00 spent on fruits and vegetable purchases would:

- Result in long-term cost savings from reductions in the incidence of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
- Save \$1.21 billion in health care costs over five years by preventing 38,782 cardiovascular disease events and gaining 18,928 quality-adjusted life years.
- Save \$2.94 million in health care costs in Harris County alone, preventing 393 cases of obesity and benefitting 238,000 adult SNAP participants by 2027.

Access to Care

Maximizing access to comprehensive health coverage

- Texas has the highest uninsured rate for both adults and children in the country, with 18% overall lacking coverage or about 5.4 million people.
- Texas is one of 11 states that have not expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act – this change could cover as many as 1 million Texans.
- Improve access for high-priority population, such as by implementing a full 12 months of post-partum coverage under Medicaid rather than only two.
- Also important to defend against attempts to sell insurance-like products that do not offer the protections consumers expect, like for preexisting conditions.

Local Control/Preemption

- Every community is different and needs the ability to develop their own policies to reflect the unique needs and values of the people living there. What works for rural or urban Texas is not always what works for other parts of the state.
- Local governments understand the needs and values of their community best. These leaders are people we see every day at the grocery store, at school events, walking their dogs in our community – and they can best respond to the changing needs of the local area
- Goal: oppose the passage of legislation that would prevent cities and counties from approving strong measures to protect the public health of their communities.
- Examples: local smoke-free ordinances, or ordinances seeking to improve the nutritional quality of children’s meals.

Further Resources

- [Texas Public Policy Agenda](#)
- [You're the Cure](#)
- [Dell Center for Healthy Living Bill Tracker](#)



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Thank you!

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