

# **The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce 2011 Position Statement**

## **Healthcare**

The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce thinks that affordable access to health care is an essential component in developing and sustaining economic viability in the city of Fort Worth. As key members of the business community, health care providers provide services that ensure the community maintains a healthy and productive workforce needed to attract businesses and enhance Fort Worth's competitive advantage. The chamber supports the following policy positions during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session:

- Continue to support the University of North Texas Health Science Center's Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and the establishment of an Allopathic Medical College to provide the much-needed solutions for health issues Texans face;
- Protect and enhance Fort Worth's position as a leader in medical research and medical technology innovation.
- Support efforts to reduce the number of uninsured and underinsured;
- Ensure adequate Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP funding for providers;
- Adequately fund the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) and Upper Payment Limit (UPL) programs;
- Support legislative and regulatory efforts that provide funding for uncompensated trauma care, intensive and specialty care, burn and emergency readiness to providers;
- Protect the medical liability and tort reforms that provide fairness, predictability and efficiency in the civil justice system;
- Reduce the nursing, allied health, and physician workforce shortages through enhanced funding for educational programs;
- Support expansion of graduate medical residency slots, including positions for private, nonprofit hospitals;
- Allow businesses to freely pool together and negotiate with health insurers to lower costs for government and businesses while improving choice and competition;
- Promote initiatives that foster wellness and prevention programs for employers and employees.

## **Background**

The Fort Worth Chamber thinks that the enhancement of health services throughout the state by decreasing our uninsured to reimbursing our providers at higher rates will improve the quality of lives and subsequently the quality of the workforce. Looking at healthcare regionally would provide a cost effective measure for metropolitan areas.

Adopted by the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on this the 21<sup>st</sup>  
day of October, 2010.

---

William J. Thornton  
President & CEO