



# PRIORITIES FOR THE 88<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION

A healthy Texas is foundational to a resilient and growing Texas. In that same vein, a healthy primary care system is foundational to a high performing health system.<sup>1</sup> **Despite primary care's proven role in lowering health care costs,<sup>2</sup> reducing hospitalizations,<sup>3</sup> and increasing access to care,<sup>4</sup> it only accounts for about 6% of the total health care expenditure in Texas.<sup>5</sup>**

Texas's failure to prioritize prevention and a care continuum has resulted in our deteriorating ranking of preventable hospitalizations nationwide.<sup>6</sup> Decades of research in several U.S. states and high-income countries shows that greater investments in primary care lead to lower per capita health care spending and healthier populations.<sup>7</sup>

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine provides an implementation plan for high-quality primary care: reform payment models, increase access points, design interprofessional care teams, support community-based training programs, make health information technology user-friendly, establish accountability and effective measurement, and create a primary care research agenda.<sup>1,8</sup>

The Texas Primary Care Consortium convened a 16-member consensus panel to develop a framework that systematically addresses the interconnected issues of costs, outcomes, and health care access in Texas.

## STATEWIDE CONSENSUS PANEL

**Tom Banning**, *Texas Academy of Family Physicians*

**Jeff Bullard**, *Catalyst Health Network*

**Helen Kent Davis**, *Texas Medical Association*

**Jamie Dudensing**, *Texas Association of Health Plans*

**Jana Eubank**, *Texas Association of Community Health Centers*

**Kay Ghahremani**, *Texas Association of Community Health Plans*

**Ken Janda**, *University of Houston College of Medicine*

**Bob Kamm**, *Robert Kamm Government Affairs*

**Rebecca King**, *Texas Nurses Association*

**Lisa Kirsch**, *UT Dell Medical School*

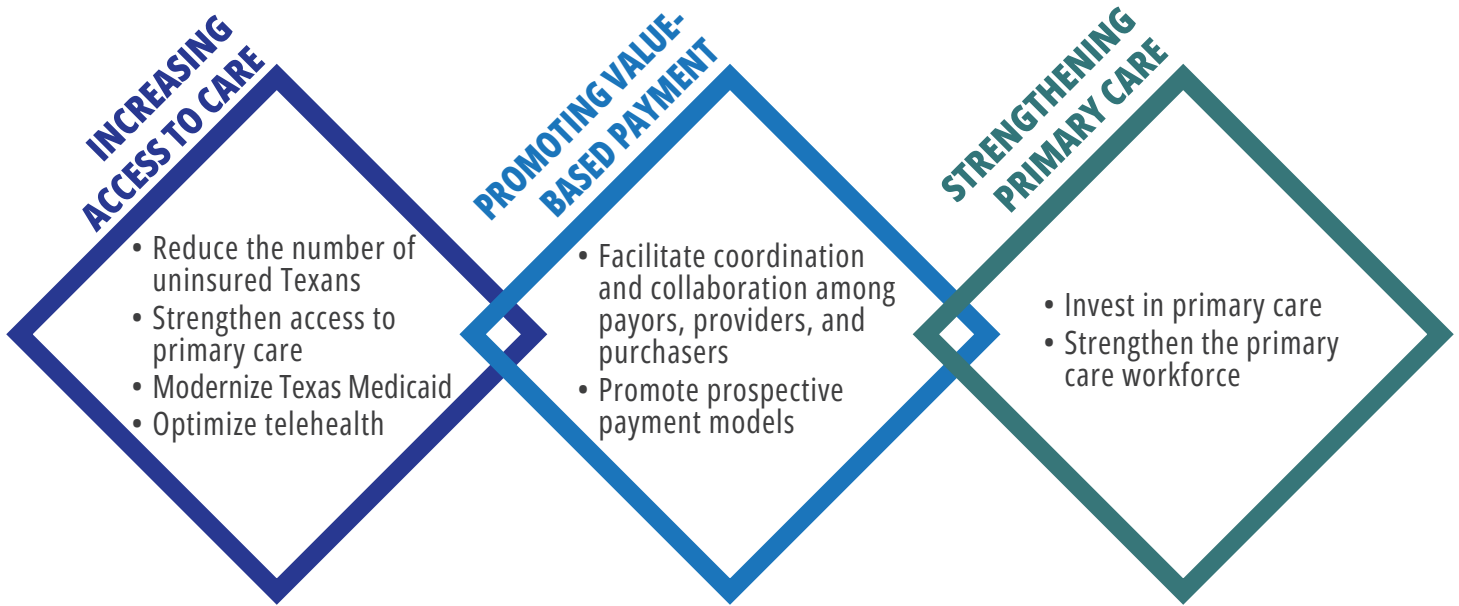
**Ray Perryman**, *The Perryman Group*

**Chris Skisak**, *Houston Business Coalition on Health*

**Laura Warren**, *Texas Parent to Parent*

# POLICY PRIORITIES FOR PRIMARY CARE

Given the systemic and chronic nature of our challenges, we propose a three-pronged framework of solutions for a positive and sustainable impact.

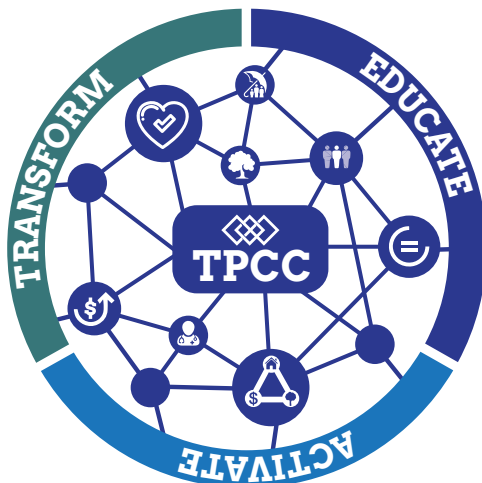
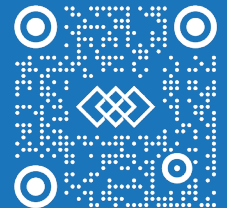


## References

- 1 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, *Implementing High-Quality Primary Care*
- 2 Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative, *The Impact of Primary Care Practice Transformation on Cost, Quality, and Utilization*
- 3 Annals of Family Medicine, *Higher Primary Care Physician Continuity is Associated With Lower Costs and Hospitalizations*
- 4 *Contribution of Primary Care to Health Systems and Health*
- 5 Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative, *Investing in Primary Care: A state-level analysis*
- 6 The Commonwealth Fund, *2022 Scorecard on State Health System Performance*
- 7 The Commonwealth Fund, *Primary Care in High-Income Countries: How the United States Compares*
- 8 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, *High-Quality Primary Care Should Be Available to Every Individual in the U.S.*

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*Texas Primary Care Consortium, co-led by Texas Medical Home Initiative and Texas Health Institute, advances equitable, comprehensive, and sustainable primary care for all Texans.*

