



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
JOE STRAUS
SPEAKER

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COMMITTEE TO FOCUS ON STRENGTHENING HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

AUSTIN – Texas House Speaker Joe Straus today created the Select Committee on Health Care Education and Training, which will focus on preparing more Texans for careers in the state's growing health sector.

Committee members will assess the demand for health professionals across the state. They will also examine ways to better align public schools, as well as colleges and universities, with the needs of health care employers.

"The strength of our health care workforce directly impacts the quality of care that Texans receive," said Speaker Straus, R-San Antonio. "It also matters a great deal to our economy. Too many health jobs are unfilled, while too many Texans are not prepared to succeed in the workforce. The work of this committee will help more Texans prepare for successful careers in a very important field."

Rep. Susan King of Abilene will chair the committee. Its membership will also include Reps. Cecil Bell, Jr. of Magnolia, Travis Clardy of Nacogdoches, Garnet Coleman of Houston, Myra Crownover of Denton, Bobby Guerra of McAllen, Donna Howard of Austin, Joe Moody of El Paso, Chris Paddie of Marshall, John Raney of Bryan and Justin Rodriguez of San Antonio.

"As a nurse and a former school board member, Representative King understands the needs of our schools and our health care providers," Speaker Straus said. "I am confident that she and all of the members of this committee will provide valuable leadership as we address this issue in the next legislative session."

Last year, the Legislature approved House Bill 5, which encourages high schools and colleges to work more closely with industry to prepare students for workplace success. The Committee on Health Care Education and Training will continue that legislation's emphasis on workforce readiness.

Texas faces severe shortages in the health sector. Of the state's 254 counties, 177 were designated all or partial Health Professional Shortage Areas this year by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. And 207 counties were named shortage areas for mental health services. Many of the jobs that see persistent shortages do not require four-year college degrees.

In addition, Texas hospitals experience higher vacancy and turnover rates for nurses than similar states. Such rates are even higher in nursing homes and assisted-living facilities.

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PROCLAMATION

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Pursuant to Rule 1, Section 16, House Rules, I, Joe Straus, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, create the House Select Committee on Health Care Education and Training.

The committee will assess the statewide demand for health professionals, including in the area of mental health. It will also make recommendations to better align institutions of public and higher education with the needs of health care employers. These recommendations will provide guidance as the Legislature seeks to strengthen the state's health care workforce, which will lead to better care for patients and better career opportunities for many Texans.

This committee may request the assistance of other committees in obtaining information.

The committee shall have 11 members. The following members are hereby appointed to the House Select Committee on Health Care Education and Training:

The Honorable Susan King, Chair
The Honorable Cecil Bell, Jr.
The Honorable Travis Clardy
The Honorable Garnet Coleman
The Honorable Myra Crownover
The Honorable Bobby Guerra
The Honorable Donna Howard
The Honorable Joseph "Joe" Moody
The Honorable Chris Paddie
The Honorable John Raney
The Honorable Justin Rodriguez

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