



TENNESSEE PRIMARY CARE
ASSOCIATION

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NEWS RELEASE
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TPCA Supports Hospital Association on Fees to Offset TennCare Cuts

Nashville, TN - The Tennessee Primary Care Association is endorsing the Tennessee Hospital Association's efforts to avoid drastic cuts to the TennCare program through a hospital-based coverage fee. The fee - outlined in House bill 3310 and Senate bill 3528 - will restore \$659 million (both state and federal dollars) in cuts to the TennCare program.

"We are thrilled that so many partners have come together to find a solution to the proposed TennCare benefit limits and cuts," said Kathy Wood-Dobbins, CEO of the Tennessee Primary Care Association. "We support THA and their efforts to ensure our state's neediest populations have access to health care."

The proposed TennCare changes would be detrimental to Community Health Centers in Tennessee, who serve over 100,000 TennCare patients each year - a third of their patient population. The changes could compromise the comprehensive model of care used by health centers and present new challenges for providers.

"We fear the proposed limits for TennCare would drive more patients to emergency rooms, which only exacerbates the cost of health care for everyone," said Wood-Dobbins. "Community Health Centers are strongly committed to providing high quality care to all of their patients, especially those with TennCare. When patients utilize primary care for disease management and prevention, costs are controlled."

For more information, please contact Jackie Crumley at 615-329-3836 x30 or jackie@tnpca.org.

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The Tennessee Primary Care Association improves access to primary health care through leadership, advocacy, and support, as the voice of community health centers.

Our Members Value Care that is:

*High quality
Affordable
Patient-centered
Community-based
Comprehensive and holistic
Accessible to all who need us*