



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
SHAWN THIERRY

DISTRICT 146

September 19, 2022

Commissioner John Hellerstedt, MD
Texas Department of State Health Services
P.O. Box 149347
Austin, Texas 78714-9347

Dear Commissioner Hellerstedt,

Thank you for your leadership of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and its efforts regarding maternal care outcomes in the state of Texas. We submit this correspondence concerning your recent decision to withhold publication of the 2022 Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and Department of State Health Services Joint Biennial Report, ("the Report").

As you are advised, Section 34.015(A) of the Texas Health and Safety Code requires that DSHS and the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee submit the Report no later than September 1st of every even-numbered year. As such, a failure to complete and/or publish the Report raises statutory compliance issues and poses potential maternal health care concerns.

Given the state's past challenges with accurate maternal data collection and reporting, it is imperative that we obtain the most recent data pertaining to maternal health outcomes in Texas, such as:

- Cases of pregnancy-related deaths:
- Trends, rates, or disparities in pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidities including, but not limited to, preeclampsia, eclampsia, hemorrhage, gestational diabetes, pregnancy-related heart complications
- Health conditions and factors that disproportionately affect the most at-risk populations, including racial disparities

Withholding the Report's findings (until after the adjournment of the 88th Texas Legislative Session) will significantly hinder the legislature's ability to assess and implement critical policy aimed at reducing and preventing future pregnancy-related deaths and maternal morbidities.

We, the undersigned, hereby request that DSHS submit the 2022 Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and Department of State Health Services Joint Biennial Report to the appropriate individuals and legislative committees as mandated by statute. Additionally, we request information pertaining to additional staffing costs, and expenses, if any, associated with the completion and publication of the Report.





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It is our hope and intention that protecting the lives of mothers and babies will remain a legislative priority and bipartisan issue in the state of Texas. Thank you for your professional attention and timely response.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawn Thierry".

State Representative Shawn Thierry
House District 146

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alma W. Allen".

Rep. Alma Allen
House District 131

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Neave Criado".

Rep. Victoria Neave Criado
House District 107

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Celia Israel".

Rep. Celia Israel
House District 50

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diego Bernal".

Rep. Diego Bernal
House District 123

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica González".

Rep. Jessica González
House District 104

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Johnson".

Rep. Ann Johnson
House District 134

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Campos".

Rep. Liz Campos
House District 119

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vikki Goodwin".

Rep. Vikki Goodwin
House District 47

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jarvis Johnson".

Rep. Jarvis Johnson
House District 139

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheryl N. Cole".

Rep. Sheryl Cole
House District 46

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gina Hinojosa".

Rep. Gina Hinojosa
House District 49

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Johnson".

Rep. Julie Johnson
House District 115

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Collier".

Rep. Nicole Collier
House District 95

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Howard".

Rep. Donna Howard
House District 48

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jolanda Jones".

Rep. Jolanda Jones
House District 147



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DISTRICT 146

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Rep. Terry Meza
House District 105

Handwritten signature of Ana-Maria Ramos in black ink.

Rep. Ana-Maria Ramos
House District 102

Handwritten signature of Senfronia Thompson in black ink.

Rep. Senfronia Thompson
House District 141

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Rep. Ina Minjarez
House District 124

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Rep. Richard Peña Raymond
House District 42

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Rep. Chris Turner
House District 101

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Rep. Christina Morales
House District 145

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Rep. Ron Reynolds
House District 27

Handwritten signature of Gene Wu in black ink.

Rep. Gene Wu
House District 137

Handwritten signature of Claudia Ordaz Perez in black ink.

Rep. Claudia Ordaz Perez
House District 76

Handwritten signature of Jon Rosenthal in purple ink.

Rep. Jon Rosenthal
House District 135

Handwritten signature of Erin Ziener in black ink.

Rep. Erin Ziener
House District 45

Handwritten signature of Lina Ortega in black ink.

Rep. Lina Ortega
House District 77

Handwritten signature of Penny Morales Shaw in blue ink.

Rep. Penny Morales Shaw
House District 148

cc: The Honorable Dade Phelan, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Dan Patrick, Lieutenant Governor
The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor

