**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 28, 2014**

Texas Association of Health Plans Taps Jamie Dudensing as new CEO

*13-year Capitol Veteran to Lead Advocacy Efforts*

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Association of Health Plans, the state's leading advocate for public and private health plans, today named longtime health care advisor, Jamie Dudensing, as its new Chief Executive Officer.

“We are elated to recruit a leader with Jamie’s experience and integrity as our new CEO," said Holly Munin, President of the TAHP board. "Over the past four sessions, you'd be hard-pressed to find a significant piece of health care legislation that wasn't improved by Jamie’s detailed knowledge and relentless work ethic. She is uniquely qualified to lead our efforts because she knows the policy, the agencies, the lawmakers, and the politics.”

With more than a decade of engagement in health care and appropriations policy, Ms. Dudensing joins TAHP after serving most recently as deputy chief of staff and director of policy for Lt. Governor Dewhurst.

“Jamie has been indispensable to our state's efforts to craft effective health care solutions for one of America's fastest-growing states," said Dewhurst. "Her experience as a registered nurse, educational background in public policy, and years spent shaping legislation define her as one of America's top health care experts. I am grateful for her service and congratulate TAHP for their wise choice."

Dudensing, a graduate of both the Texas Tech School of Nursing and UT's LBJ School with a Masters in Public Affairs, welcomes this next chapter in her lifelong passion for health care.

"TAHP is well known in the capitol for their mission to improve access, value and the quality of health care and I'm proud to join the team," said Dudensing. "I will always appreciate the privilege and opportunity I've had to work for lawmakers who share my passion for health policy. TAHP is the perfect role for me to continue advocating for more efficiency, transparency and, ultimately, better health outcomes for Texans.”

A west Texas native, Ms. Dudensing began her career in Austin after being recruited to become the Capitol nurse. After gaining a Masters in Public Affairs from the LBJ School, she served two sessions as the Health and Human Services Budget Analyst on the House Appropriations Committee. She then joined Lt. Governor Dewhurst's staff where she first served as Senior Advisor for Budget and Policy, ultimately rising to the position of Deputy Chief of Staff and Policy Director.

During her time with Governor Dewhurst, she played a central role in developing the state budget and helping legislative officials craft policy affecting health care financing, Medicaid, federal health care reform efforts, public financing, and the private health insurance market.

Ms. Dudensing is a magna cum laude graduate of Texas Tech’s school of Nursing where she was named a distinguished alumna in 2013 by the Texas Tech University Health Science Center.

In making the announcement, Munin also expressed appreciation for the work of Dudensing's predecessor, David Gonzales.

"David has been a vital part of our success and he has gone the extra mile to ensure a smooth leadership transition at TAHP. We're grateful for his time here and wish him the best of luck and success with all of his future endeavors.”

About Texas Association of Health Plans (TAHP)

Texas Association of Health Plans (TAHP) is a statewide trade association representing effectively all health plans (Commercial, Medicaid, CHIP and Medicare) doing business in Texas and is committed to improving access, value and quality of care throughout Texas. Utilizing legislative advocacy, education and collaboration with other member organizations, TAHP brings together industry leadership to develop answers to critical health care issues in the state. For more information, please visit www.tahp.org or call (512) 476-2091.

Press contact:

Darrell Farr

dfarr@tahp.org

512-476-2091

###