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Every Texan Supports SB 1059 by Paxton

Relating to the process for determining the Medicaid eligibility of certain former foster care youth.

Melissa McChesney, Senior Policy Analyst, Every Texan, mcchesney@everytexan.org

Every Texan Supports SB 1059 by Paxton which directs the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to streamline the renewal process for youth in the Former Foster Care Children (FFCC) Medicaid. **Streamlining renewals for FFCC Medicaid will improve retention, continuity of care, and health outcomes for former foster care youth in Medicaid. Specifically, SB 1059 directs the agency to accept self-attestation of residency for youth in FFCC Medicaid. This policy is shown to be a best practice for the former foster care population as it addresses the largest reason young adults churn off the program during annual renewals.**

Background

Federal law requires Texas to continue to provide Medicaid to youth who age out of the Texas foster care system at 18 who were enrolled in Medicaid at the time that they aged out. These youth remain eligible for Medicaid in Texas until they turn 26. This program is known as Former Foster Care Children (FFCC) Medicaid. According to a recent report, HHSC has made significant strides to improve retention in FFCC Medicaid, however, opportunities for improvement still exist. **According to the report, more than 700 young adults were denied Medicaid in FY2019 for procedural reasons, not because they were determined ineligible. By streamlining renewals for FFCC Medicaid, SB 1059 would reduce red tape and improve retention of eligible young adults in this program.**

Youth receiving FFCC Medicaid should remain eligible for the program until they turn 26 unless they have a change in immigration status that makes them ineligible, or they move out of the state of Texas. Each year youth may be required to reverify immigration status or residency at renewal if the agency is unable to verify the information using electronic data sources. For FY2019, 19% of youths were required to provide some type of verification at renewal. Due to the limited eligibility for Medicaid for noncitizens in Texas, only a very small number of young adults enrolled in the program would need to provide updated immigration status information. **Therefore, the most common reason a youth would be unable to renew FFCC Medicaid each year would be for failure to provide verification of Texas residency.** Federal regulations provide Texas the option to accept self-attestation of residency at renewal for Medicaid groups. As an example, Texas currently accepts self-attestation of residency for children under 18 in Medicaid to improve retention at renewal. **SB 1059, would direct the agency to accept self-attestation of residency at renewal for FFCC Medicaid which would improve retention by reducing administrative burden for these young adults at renewal.**

Source: [Report on Medicaid Coverage for Former Foster Children](#), Texas Health and Human Services Commission, November 2020