

PEDIATRIC THERAPY COALITION

Physical | Occupational | Speech

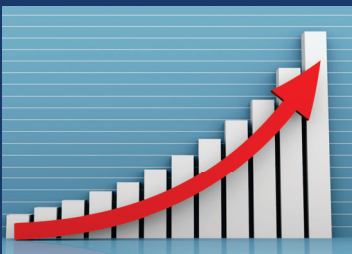
Texas Must Increase Reimbursement Rates by 10% to Restore Access to Pediatric Therapies

Current demand for therapy services drastically outpaces Texas' workforce availability. Low reimbursement rates result in occupational, physical, and speech therapists leaving the profession. Thousands of Texas kids in need of medically necessary services are waitlisted.

How Has Access to Care Been Affected?

**6,532 children
on waitlists:
Up from 4,961 in
December 2023**

SOURCE: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BIENNIAL THERAPY ACCESS MONITORING REPORT



Therapy Needs Have Sharply Risen

Nearly **1 in 10 U.S. children** have been diagnosed with a developmental disability according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Reimbursement Rates for Therapy Have Drastically Decreased

Rates have fallen by **34%-65%** since 2014. Despite attempts to increase rates, they remain **20%-40% lower**.

Statewide Staffing Shortages Have Worsened

Children with complex medical conditions require **therapists with specialized skills. Highly specialized therapists are not widely available.**

Leading providers report that they are not able to hire enough staff to meet clinical needs.

The Solution:

Texas leaders must increase the Statewide Therapy Fee Schedule by 10%.

Wins if Implemented:

Investing in pediatric therapy helps children become less reliant on state services, thrive in school, and grow into successful, tax-paying adults who contribute to the prosperity of Texas!

Success Stories:

Meet Gordon



Gordon grew up in Seagoville TX. He received Physical, Occupational and Speech therapy starting as a three year old to address significant delays in mobility, self-care skills, and his inability to communicate effectively. Gordon progressed by leaps and bounds and went on to be a successful Texan.

In 2018, Gordon graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University with a bachelor's in accounting. Today, he enriches the lives of many East Texans through his work at Greater East Texas Community Action Program in Nacogdoches, where he works as an Accountant.

Gordon serves on the board of the Nacogdoches Police Foundation, Independence Manor, and Better Together, is a member of the Nacogdoches rotary club and Chamber of Commerce, and volunteers for various non-profits and disability organizations.

Warren was born premature one of twins and his parents were told that he would never live independently. Although Warren has had lots of obstacles, he is on the road to living independently.

He has held a job at a fitness facility for others with Special Needs, he graduated from High School and plans to apply to college this year. He has spoken in front of congress and UTMP PT students. "I am happy to say that I am a registered voter and my first time to vote was the 2022 Texas Elections! I am very excited to join the Gulf Coast Self Advocates to really make an impact on legislation!

"My biggest piece of advice - to treat (a person with DS) just like anyone else, talk to them, ask them how their day is going and what they are doing this weekend. As for job responsibilities, hold the expectations high, but pack a little extra patience in your pocket. When given extra time to work things out in my mind, and create a work task list, I can accomplish any job given to me!"

Meet Warren



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