

Child and Dependent care

Senate Natural Resources and Economic Development and House International Relations and Economic Development

Study the care economy in Texas. Identify opportunities to build a healthy and sustainable caregiver system that dignifies the work of caregivers and expands access to quality, affordable care - for children, elders, and those living with a disability.

SNAP Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) and other benefits/safety net

Senate Health and Human Services and House Human Services

Examine the economic wellbeing of Texas households, including regional differences in cost of living and household financial stability and the effect of the “benefits cliff” on Texas employers, workers, and communities. Evaluate best practices and make recommendation for addressing the benefits cliff to ensure more Texas workers can progress in their jobs and careers, to help employers fill workforce shortages, and to drive economic growth and wellbeing of Texas communities.

Transportation and Housing

Senate Transportation and House Transportation

Examine public/private, municipal, and nonprofit transportation programs that are addressing transportation barriers to employment and workforce development, making note of what regions these services are available in. Determine gaps in service-delivery and state-level funding for municipal transportation. Make recommendations to increase access to transportation for job-seekers and employees that will help reduce state and employer costs related to productivity.

Senate Natural Resources and Economic Development and House International Relations and Economic Development

Study the connection of housing and employment. Review current practices and strategies to integrate workforce and housing systems. Determine ways to engage employers in strategies to better support individuals facing employment and housing barriers, including investment in affordable housing. Make recommendations to strengthen coordination between the workforce development and housing systems to reduce the housing burden for workers and foster a stable and productive workforce. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Urban Affairs)*

Health and Behavioral Health

SOMETHING ABOUT COVERAGE GAP OF LOW WAGE WORKERS

Adult Education and Literacy

Senate Higher Education and House International Relations and Economic Development

Examine low literacy and numeracy in Texas. Review current models and initiatives, innovative practices, and gaps in funding and service-delivery for basic adult education and skills development. Assess opportunities to implement cross-systems, intergenerational, and two-generational approaches to literacy and learning statewide. Make

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recommendations to strengthen literacy and numeracy rates in Texas, increase oversight of adult education providers, and bolster family learning opportunities enabling parents and children to build critical skills needed for education and workforce success.

Other Barriers

Senate Transportation and House State Affairs

Monitor implementation of HB 5, evaluate use of federal relief money to promote digital connectivity, and review ongoing practices focused on closing the digital divide. Determine ways to strengthen cross-agency and public-private partnership approaches to addressing inequities in access, use, and adoption; evaluate strategies aimed at closing gaps in connectivity that impact individuals within a broad range of areas including education, workforce development, and healthcare.

Senate Health and Human Services and House Human Services

Evaluate 2-1-1 Texas—our statewide information and referral system—as well as best practices, innovative models, and funding sources for connecting individuals with community resources and supports through 2-1-1. Determine opportunities for systems, including education, workforce, healthcare, and criminal justice to leverage the 2-1-1 Texas network to address basic needs, such as housing and food assistance that will improve outcomes and reduce avoidable utilization of more costly systems and programs.

Senate Higher Education and House International Relations and Economic Development

Review gaps in education, workforce, and employment outcomes and strategies for ensuring equitable workforce development interventions. Make recommendations to increase data disaggregation of workforce outcomes by race/ethnicity and gender from public agencies and eligible training providers (e.g., community college, trade schools, and for-profit entities—especially those receiving public funding).

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