



For Immediate Release
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**Statement by Tim Graves,
President & CEO of the Texas Health Care Association,
In Response to Senate Finance Committee Action on Article 2 Regarding
Medicaid Funding to Texas Skilled Nursing Facilities**

“We thank Chairman Ogden and the Committee for their significant step forward in passing this important motion to restore Medicaid funding to skilled nursing care for Texas elderly. With many more budgetary actions forthcoming in the weeks ahead, we will continue to respectfully stress adequate Medicaid funding is vital to preserving quality seniors’ care and good local jobs across Texas.

THCA will continue to stress the broader context of the nursing home funding debate: Even before the untenable 33% Medicaid cut was put forward, the 3% (\$56.9 million) Medicaid rate cuts in 2011, and federal Medicare cuts of over \$1.5 billion over ten years enacted as part of health care reform – placed Texas nursing facility residents, their caregivers and local communities in clear and present danger. These are baseline budgetary facts that cannot be ignored.”

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Founded in 1950, the Texas Health Care Association (THCA) is the largest long term care association in Texas. THCA represents a broad spectrum of long-term care providers and professionals offering long term, rehabilitative and specialized health care services. Member facilities, owned by both for-profit and non-profit entities, include nursing facilities, specialized rehabilitation facilities, and assisted living facilities.