



**OPPO DUMP:**  
VULNERABLE TEXAS  
REPUBLICANS ON HEALTH CARE



## MATT SHAHEEN (HD-66)

Representative Shaheen has spent his time in the House opposing affordable access to women's health care, such as providing diagnostic mammograms. Shaheen has repeatedly voted to allow insurance companies to dictate what medications patients could use. He also voted against Medicaid expansion, which would have given over 1 million Texans access to health care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### He Said What?!

[Audio] When asked if he still opposed expanding Medicaid during the COVID-19 pandemic, Shaheen doubled down, claiming expansion was a burden on the budget. [Tele Town Hall, [4/14/20](#)]

### Legislative Action

Voted to:

- ✓ Stop Medicaid expansion. [[SB 1, Amendment 118](#); [HB 1, Amendment 72](#)]
- ✓ Block a law to eliminate out of pocket costs for diagnostic mammograms. [[HB 170](#)]
- ✓ Keep insurance company rules that dictate what version of a drug stage four cancer patients can use first. [[HB 1584](#)]
- ✓ Prohibit the Department of Family Protective Services from vaccinating new children in their care. [[HB 39, Amendment 5](#); [SB 11, Amendment 6](#)]
- ✓ Block doctors from administering HPV vaccines to children newly in Department of Family Protective Services care. [[HB 39, Amendment 3](#)]
- ✓ Stop the Health and Human Services Committee from creating a plan to enhance access to postpartum depression screening and treatment. [[HB 253](#)]
- ✓ Block removing caps on spending by Medicaid plans for community health workers. [[HB 2091](#)]
- ✓ Block establishing a state council on long term care facilities [[SB 1519](#)]
- ✓ Stop the extension of the Women's Health Advisory Committee. [[HB 279](#)]
- ✓ Block requiring insurance companies to cover better mammogram technology. [[HB 1036](#)]
- ✓ Block mediation for all patients with balances over \$500 in emergency care medical bills. [[HB 507](#)]
- ✓ Stop increasing funding for nursing homes. [[HB 2766](#)]
- ✓ Allow health insurance companies to deny coverage of hearing aids based on cost. [[HB 2658](#)]
- ✓ Allow health insurance companies to switch patients' medications without a medical reason. [[HB 2099](#)]
- ✓ Block insurance coverage for hearing aids and cochlear implants for children. [[HB 490](#)]

### Who's Supporting Them?

2018: Shaheen was endorsed by Texans For Vaccine Choice. [Texans For Vaccine Reform, [10/4/18](#)]

### Positions

Shaheen said that he strongly agreed that Congress should repeal the Affordable Care Act. [Matt Shaheen; iVoterGuide, accessed [8/12/20](#)]

## JEFF LEACH (HD-67)

Representative Leach has used his position in the House to push a dangerous anti-vaccination agenda, including sponsoring an amendment allowing personal exemptions for vaccines. He voted against expanding Medicaid to cover more than one million more Texans; and introduced an amendment to stop the Governor from being able to expand Medicaid. Leach also supported allowing insurance companies to make medical decisions instead of doctors and patients.

### They Said What?!

[Video] Leach opposed allowing doctors to decide to give HPV vaccines to children newly in Department of Family Protective Services care. [HB 39, Amendment 3 floor debate, [5/13/17](#)]

### Legislative Action

Sponsored an amendment to:

- ✓ Allow personal exemptions for vaccines. [[HB 7, Amendment 32](#)]
- ✓ Stop the Governor and Health and Human Services Commissioners from being able to expand Medicaid. [[SB 7, Amendment 26](#)]

Authored a bill to:

- ✓ Prohibit doctors from refusing to treat unvaccinated patients. [[HB 1070](#)]

Voted to:

- ✓ Stop Medicaid expansion. [[SB 1, Amendment 118](#); [HB 1, Amendment 72](#)]
- ✓ Stop the Governor and Health and Human Services Commissioners from being able to expand Medicaid. [[SB 7, Amendment 26](#)]
- ✓ Block a law making it easier for patients to know whether their doctors are in-network for their health insurance. [[SB 1742](#)]
- ✓ Prohibit the Department of Family Protective Services from vaccinating new children in their care. [[HB 39, Amendment 5](#); [SB 11, Amendment 6](#)]
- ✓ Block doctors from administering HPV vaccines to children newly in Department of Family Protective Services care. [[HB 39, Amendment 3](#)]
- ✓ Stop the extension of the Women's Health Advisory Committee. [[HB 279](#)]
- ✓ Block requiring insurance companies to cover better mammogram technology. [[HB 1036](#)]
- ✓ Block the option of mediation for all patients with balances over \$500 in emergent care medical bills. [[HB 507](#)]
- ✓ Stop increasing funding for nursing homes. [[HB 2766](#)]
- ✓ Allow health insurance companies to switch patients' medications without a medical reason. [[HB 2099](#)]
- ✓ Allow insurance companies to deny coverage for emergency room visits if the final diagnosis wasn't what they considered an emergency. [[HB 1832](#)]
- ✓ End the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force. [[HB 2035](#)]

### Positions

Opposed local laws that require employers offer their employees paid sick leave. [Amicus Brief, [8/10/18](#)]

## Who's Supporting Them?

2018: Leach was endorsed by Texans For Vaccine Choice. [Texans For Vaccine Reform, [10/4/18](#)]

June 2017: Leach Accepted \$350 From Texans For Vaccine Choice. [Jeff Leach Campaign Finance Report, filed 7/17/17]

## MORGAN MEYER (HD-108)

Representative Meyer was endorsed by an anti-vaccination group for supporting their agenda. Meyer voted twice to stop Medicaid expansion, which would have given over one million Texans access to affordable health care. Meyer also voted to block an increase in nursing home funding, which would have given homes the ability to hire and retain trained staff.

## Legislative Action

Voted to:

- ✓ Stop Medicaid expansion. [[SB 1, Amendment 118](#); [HB 1, Amendment 72](#)]
- ✓ Prohibit the Department of Family Protective Services from vaccinating new children in their care. [[HB 39, Amendment 5](#); [SB 11, Amendment 6](#)]
- ✓ Stop the extension of the Women's Health Advisory Committee. [[HB 279](#)]
- ✓ Block doctors from administering HPV vaccines to children newly in Department of Family Protective Services care. [[HB 39, Amendment 3](#)]
- ✓ Stop increasing funding for nursing homes. [[HB 2766](#)]
- ✓ Allow health insurance companies to deny coverage of hearing aids based on cost. [[HB 2658](#)]

## Who's Supporting Them?

2018: Meyer was endorsed by Texans For Vaccine Choice. [Texans For Vaccine Reform, [10/4/18](#)]

## Positions

Meyer said that he strongly agreed that Congress should repeal the Affordable Care Act. [Morgan Meyer; iVoterGuide, accessed [8/12/20](#)]

## ANGIE CHEN BUTTON (HD-112)

Representative Angie Chen Button voted twice to stop Medicaid expansion, which would have given over one million Texans access to health care. She also voted to block an increase in nursing home funding, which would have given homes the ability to hire and retain trained staff, including one home in her district that had a below average staffing level, leaving it vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Legislative Action

Voted to:

- ✓ Stop Medicaid expansion. [[SB 1, Amendment 118](#); [HB 1, Amendment 72](#)]

- ✓ Prohibit the Department of Family Protective Services from vaccinating new children in their care. [[HB 39, Amendment 5](#); [SB 11, Amendment 6](#)]
- ✓ Stop the extension of the Women’s Health Advisory Committee. [[HB 279](#)]
- ✓ Block doctors from administering HPV vaccines to children newly in Department of Family Protective Services care. [[HB 39, Amendment 3](#)]
- ✓ Block increasing funding for nursing homes. [[HB 2766](#)]

## Positions

Signed an amicus brief opposing local laws that require employers offer their employees paid sick leave. [Amicus Brief, [8/10/18](#)]

## SARAH DAVIS (HD-134)

Representative Davis presents herself as a moderate on health care, but when given the opportunity to expand health care for over one million Texans, she was the one who moved to kill an amendment to expand Medicaid.

## They Said What?!

[Video] Davis moved to kill an amendment to expand Medicaid. [Discussion of SB 1, Amendment 118, [4/06/17](#)]

[Video] “Texas is not going to fall for” the Affordable Care Act’s rules. [Harris County Meet and Greet, [9/23/10](#)]

## Legislative Action

Voted to:

- ✓ Stop Medicaid expansion. [[SB 1, Amendment 118](#)]
- ✓ Stop the Governor and Health and Human Services Commissioners from being able to expand Medicaid. [[SB 7, Amendment 26](#)]

## LYNN STUCKY (HD-64)

Representative Stucky voted twice to stop Medicaid expansion, which would have given over one million more Texans access to health care. He also opposed the extension of a Women’s Health Advisory Committee and voted for two anti-vaccination amendments.

## Legislative Action

Voted to:

- ✓ Stop Medicaid expansion. [[SB 1, Amendment 118](#); [HB 1, Amendment 72](#)]
- ✓ Stop the Health and Human Services Committee from creating a plan to enhance access to postpartum depression screening and treatment. [[HB 253](#)]
- ✓ Prohibit the Department of Family Protective Services from vaccinating new children in their care. [[HB 39, Amendment 5](#); [SB 11, Amendment 6](#)]
- ✓ Stop the extension of the Women’s Health Advisory Committee. [[HB 279](#)]

## Positions

Stucky said that he strongly agreed that Congress should repeal the Affordable Care Act. [Lynn Stucky; iVoterGuide, accessed [8/12/20](#)]

## STEVE ALLISON (HD-121)

Representative Allison voted to block Medicaid expansion, which would have given over one million Texans access to health care.<sup>i</sup>

## Legislative Action

Voted to:

- ✓ Stop Medicaid expansion. [[HB 1, Amendment 72](#)]
- ✓ Stop the Health and Human Services Committee from creating a plan to enhance access to postpartum depression screening and treatment. [[HB 253](#)]

<sup>i</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, [2019](#)

<sup>ii</sup> American Ledger, [4/23/20](#)