DRC DALLAS REGIONAL CHAMBER | NATIONAL CHAMBER OF THE YEAR

SUPPORTING A HEALTHY TALENT POOL

The Dallas Region is home to world-renowned health care and research institutions, including eight hospital systems and six nationally ranked research universities. Dallas' medical district serves 2.8 million patients every year. Even with this capacity for service, clear needs and emerging challenges must be addressed to ensure accessible, 360-degree care for all Texans.

The Dallas Regional Chamber supports innovative approaches to addressing health care labor shortages and policies that increase access to quality care options, particularly behavioral health services.

ADDRESSING LABOR SHORTAGES

- **Issue**: Approximately 500,000 nurses are expected to leave the workforce this year, resulting in a nationwide 1.1 million nurse shortage. In the Dallas Region, this will have compounding effects on patient care and medical.
- **Action**: Innovative policies that incentivize the recruitment and retention of medical professionals will boost the health care ecosystem in our region – which has the 7th-most life science and biotech jobs in the U.S.

EXPANDING ACCESS

- **Issue**: Having health care coverage does not always mean having access to quality health care options.
- **Action**: Making long-term, sustainable investments in Texas' broadband infrastructure will allow for greater access to more flexible telehealth and telemedicine options.

IMPROVING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

- **Issue**: The need for behavioral health services across Texas has never been greater – in the Dallas Region, there are only about five state-supported inpatient hospital beds per 100,000 residents.
- **Action**: Last legislative session, the DRC led a coalition to help secure funding for a 200-bed state behavioral health hospital serving our region – but further funding is needed, including $102 million to complete construction and $68.5 million for ramp-up operations.

For more information, please email Matt Garcia, SVP of Public Policy, at mgarcia@dallaschamber.org.