



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

DEC -9 2016

Congressman Lloyd Doggett  
2307 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Doggett:

This letter is in response to your October 19, 2016 correspondence to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), in which you express concerns regarding the Texas Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Part C of the IDEA). Specifically, reduced State appropriations and reduced pediatric therapy reimbursement rates in Medicaid had led three ECI providers to withdraw from the ECI program. In your letter, you requested that our office work with the State to ensure that infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families have access to early intervention programs administered under Part C. We appreciate your concern and assure you that we have been working diligently with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission's (HHSC) ECI program to ensure that contracts are secured for the regions impacted and that infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families have access to the services to which they are entitled under Part C of the IDEA.

In an October 28, 2016 call with the Associate Commissioner of HHSC, we were informed that contracts with new service providers had been secured for regions previously served by the Emergence Health Network in El Paso and the North Texas Rehabilitation Center. On November 1, 2016 we were notified by HHSC that a contract had been secured for the Tyler area, previously served by the Andrews Center. In a follow-up call on December 2, 2016 we were notified by HHSC that there is the potential for eleven or twelve additional ECI providers to withdraw from the ECI program. In response to the December 2, 2016 call we are meeting with HHSC leadership in Austin Texas on December 15, 2016.

Thank you for your continued interest in this issue. We will continue to work with HHSC to ensure that early intervention services are made available to all eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. If you have any further concerns regarding this issue, please feel free to contact Lloyd Horwich in the Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs at 202-205-0490.

Sincerely,

Ruth E. Ryder  
Acting Director  
Office of Special Education Programs

400 MARYLAND AVE. S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202-2600

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

*The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*