



## TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

KYLE L. JANEK, M.D.  
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

March 30, 2015

The Honorable Dan Patrick  
Lieutenant Governor  
State Capitol, Room 2E.13  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Governor Patrick:

This morning Governor Abbott's Health and Human Services Strike Force, led by Billy Hamilton, [released its report](#). I have had a chance to read the report's findings and recommendations. First, I want to thank Governor Abbott and the strike force for a thorough report that outlines a clear path to a stronger and more effective Health and Human Services Commission. That is a vision I share and am committed to achieving.

We're examining the strike force report to see how quickly we can make the recommended changes, and I'm pleased to report that we've already begun many of them. Just a few examples: We've tightened our processes for purchasing IT goods and services through DIR, we're developing a new contract monitoring team, and we've hired a chief ethics officer. We brought in some of the state's most experienced contracting experts who are improving our policies and processes. Moreover, we have begun to revamp our management structure to one more in line with the Sunset Commission and strike force recommendations.

It's important that we remain focused on constantly working to improve the critical services our agencies provide. We're exploring operational partnerships with medical schools to help raise the quality of care at our state hospitals. We've initiated a comprehensive plan to transform child protective services. We are continuing our efforts to modernize how we process applications for Medicaid and SNAP food benefits – an effort that has improved service and kept costs down despite rising caseloads. This week, we will host leaders from public and private hospitals around the state to work on funding for those who provide critical care for our poorest citizens.

My goal is to make HHSC a model for good government and ethical leadership. The Sunset Commission, strike force and legislators are providing excellent and welcome guidance to help us achieve that goal. I look forward to working with state leaders as we build a better, stronger Health and Human Services Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle L. Janek".

Kyle L. Janek, M.D.

cc: Governor Greg Abbott