



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

January 16, 2026

Inspector General Raymond Winter
Office of Inspector General
Texas Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 85200
Austin, Texas 78708-5200

Executive Commissioner Stephanie Muth
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
P.O. Box 13247
Austin, Texas 78711-3247

Dear Inspector General Winter and Commissioner Muth:

Texas provides critical healthcare services to children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities through the state's Medicaid program. Access to medical services is a key component in supporting these individuals, and Medicaid fraud robs taxpayers and impairs Texans' ability to receive necessary healthcare. During my tenure as Governor, Texas has policed the Medicaid program and proactively combatted fraud, but we will strengthen our efforts to further protect taxpayers, preserve access for eligible Texans, and maintain the integrity of Texas' Medicaid Program.

Recently, the Trump Administration identified potential systematic fraud in certain Medicaid funded programs and services in other states. State agencies have a duty to take proactive steps to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse, to recoup inappropriately paid funds, and to hold those accountable that violate the law.

The Texas Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) proactively address fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicaid program using audits, inspections, investigations, and compliance reviews

OIG has broad authority under Chapter 544 of the Texas Government Code to prevent, detect, and investigate fraud, waste, and abuse in the provision and delivery of all health and human services

in this state, including the Medicaid program. HHSC has authority under Chapter 32 of the Human Resources Code to administer the Medicaid program in an efficient manner.

Given the recent allegations of Medicaid benefits fraud in other states, I direct the OIG and HHSC to take the following actions:

- Perform additional reviews of Medicaid services recently identified by the Trump Administration as susceptible to higher incidences of fraud and adjust OIG resources to investigate those suspected of fraudulent activity that are not already under review;
- Ensure that all Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO) have fully staffed Special Investigations Units (SIUs) and are completing mandatory investigative activities, as required by law, to root out fraud;
- Provide additional training to the MCO SIUs to enhance their capacity to prevent, detect, and eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicaid program;
- Perform additional targeted reviews of MCO policies for the Medicaid services most susceptible to fraud, waste, and abuse;
- Complete a targeted utilization review of autism services and provide a report in June 2026; and
- Highlight the availability of the OIG online fraud reporting portal and hotline to allow Texans to report potential instances of fraud in the Texas Medicaid program.

OIG and HHSC will provide a progress report on their efforts to my office by March 15, 2026. If either agency has questions, they should reach out to their budget and policy advisor.

I will continue to work with you both to eliminate fraud in publicly funded services, protect taxpayer investments, and ensure Texas efficiently provides high-quality medical care through this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Abbott", written in a cursive style.

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:tgm