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The State of Texas
House of Representatives
District 63

December 18, 2019

Dr. Courtney Phillips
Commissioner
Texas Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 13247
Austin, Texas 78711-3247

Dear Commissioner Phillips:

During the 86th Legislative Session, I was honored to be a lead House sponsor of SB 1207, an important public policy measure to ensure the continuity of care and services for Medicaid eligible medically fragile children in our state. Due to their highly complex and specialized needs, it was paramount that the Texas Legislature take decisive action to make certain that the network of service and equipment providers is sufficient to preserve their lives. I am very pleased that lawmakers were able to accomplish this legislative priority while at the same time, preserving maximum usage of primary commercial coverage to ultimately save Texas taxpayer dollars.

Today, I am writing to you about one of the principal, and also most important, goals of SB 1207. In Section 6/Sec. 533.038(g), we were purposefully clear and unambiguous in our objective for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to quickly "develop a clear and easy process... that allows a recipient with complex medical needs who has established a relationship with a specialty provider to continue receiving care from that provider." It was my legislative intent for the term "specialty provider" to mean any entity or person, including a DME or any other type of provider, that provides goods or services to the patient/recipient.

It is critical that none of these families have to face unnecessary hardships and risk their care by having a gap in services or equipment from a provider that they have an existing relationship with and trust to care for their child. Your prompt and careful consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions, please never hesitate to contact me directly at 214.886.4699.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tan Parker".

Tan Parker
State Representative
House District 63

cc: Stephanie Muth
Deputy Executive Commissioner
Medicaid & CHIP Services

