

RESOLUTION NO. 040212-34

WHEREAS, HB 2292, signed into law on June 10, 2003, will result in 12 Health and Human Service agencies and functions being consolidated into five agencies;

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Health has requested public feedback on this proposed organizational restructuring;

WHEREAS, healthcare and human services amount to the second largest expenditure in the City of Austin budget;

WHEREAS, this reorganization will likely result in millions of dollars of state funding cuts for healthcare and human services;

WHEREAS, these funding cuts would target services that provide vital care to Austin's most vulnerable populations;

WHEREAS, the impact of the reorganization has the potential to cause the state to lose millions of dollars of federal funds;

WHEREAS, the combined loss of state and federal funds would harm Austin's most vulnerable residents and place severe strain on Austin's budget;

WHEREAS, efforts are underway to privatize human services operations currently run by the state;

WHEREAS, these privatization efforts would result in the displacement or unemployment of many Austinites, the loss of health insurance and pension benefits, a lower quality and quantity of care, reduced public oversight and the potential for politicizing and corrupting public functions; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council of the City of Austin respectfully requests that the Transition Legislative Oversight Committee (TLOC) do the following:

1. Place the highest priority on services that directly serve vulnerable populations; and

2. Consider the potential impact on federal funding and local government budgets when evaluating reorganization proposals.

ADOPTED: February 12, 2004

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk

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