

Bi-monthly Publication



[NABIP-TX Legislative Update](#) [Mike & Shannon Meroney, Meroney Public Affairs](#)



On the Friday before Thanksgiving week, the Texas House of Representative voted to strip school vouchers from the chamber's massive education funding bill, taking an blunt ax to Gov. Greg Abbott's top legislative priority of the year.

The House voted 84-63 in favor of an amendment offered by Rep. John Raney (R-College Station), which removed the provision of the bill allowing some parents to use tax dollars to send their children to private and religious schools. Twenty-one Republicans, most of whom represent rural districts, joined all Democrats in support of the amendment.

Voucher opponents said

they feared the subsidy would divert money from their public school systems — either in the short term because students would leave for private schools, or in the long term because the state would have to commit more funding to the program that would otherwise fund public education. For many rural Republicans, they said they have few private schools in their districts where families could take advantage of vouchers.

The outcome was a setback to Gov. Abbott, who spent seven months lobbying two dozen Republicans who signaled opposition to vouchers in a test vote during the regular legislative session in April. His various strategies included holding school choice rallies at private schools in rural areas, tying vouchers to increased public school funding, calling two special sessions dedicated to education, threatening

to support primary challengers to Republicans who opposed vouchers and announcing a breakthrough deal with the holdouts that did not appear to exist.

None of it worked.

"I believe in my heart that using taxpayer dollars to fund an entitlement program is not conservative, and it's bad public policy," Raney, who is not seeking reelection, said on the House floor. "Expanding government-defined choice programs for a few without accountability... undermines our constitutional and moral duty to educate the children of Texas."

For years, a coalition of Democrats and rural Republicans have joined together to block attempts to create a voucher system in Texas, and that alliance held.

The bill, authored by Rep. Brad Buckley (R-Killeen) is a \$7 billion omnibus bill that would also boost spending

(See Meroney, Page 3)

Inside This Edition

Global Healthcare	2
Patients Don't Know	2
Employer Health Trends	2
Disrupting Health Plan	3
Tech Revolution	3
Chapter Braggin'	4-5
Hollis Nominations	6

Global Healthcare Benefit Costs Expected to Rise 9.9% in 2024

By Marissa Plescia - Healthcare costs are continuing to rise, with about three-fifths of insurers expecting increases over the next few years, a new survey revealed. However, there seems to be slight easing, with healthcare costs anticipated to increase at a slower pace in 2024 compared to 2023. [Read Full Article...](#)



Patients Don't Know How To Navigate The US Health Care System - And It's Costing Them

By Dylan Scott - Of all the culprits that make it harder for Americans to afford and access health care, the sheer confusion many patients experience when trying to select an insurance plan or when faced with an expensive medical bill may be the most overlooked. [Read Full Article...](#)



Business Group On Health: Four Employer Health Trends To Watch In 2024

By Paige Minemyer - Employers are going to be expecting more from their partners going into 2024 as they look to address issues ranging from mental health to drug costs to wellness. [Read Full Article...](#)

(Meroney, continued from page 1)

for public schools. It would increase the basic allotment — the base amount allocated to districts per student — from \$6,160 to \$6,700 and would be adjusted for inflation starting in the 2026-27 school year. It also includes a one-time \$4,000 bonus for full-time teachers, counselors, nurses and librarians.

But its key provision was school vouchers. The provision which was stripped would have created education savings accounts, a voucher program that would allow about 40,000 students who exit the state’s public education system to either receive \$10,500 annually for private school expenses or up to \$1,000 for homeschooling. The program would have prioritized students from low-income families and those with disabilities, but with every child eligible for the money as funds allowed.



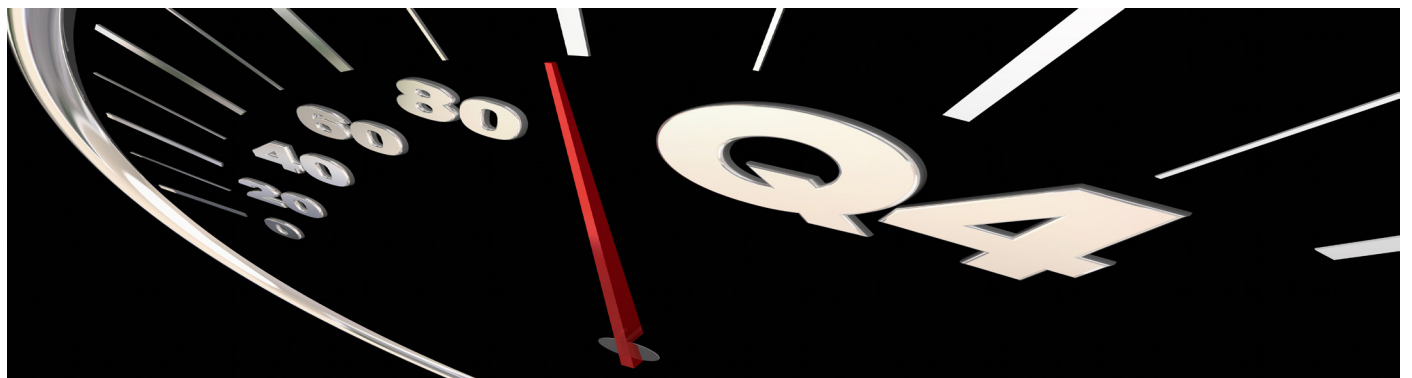
Disrupting Employer Health Coverage: A New (Low-Cost) Public Option Is In The Works

By Dan Cook - With the open enrollment period in full bloom, this may be a good time for health plan sponsors to consider whether the proposed Choose Medicare option would fit into their in-surance matrix going forward. [Read Full Article...](#)



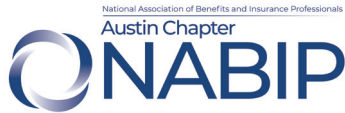
It’s Time for the Tech Revolution to Come to Mental Health Diagnoses

By Andrew Marshak - While breast cancer garners widespread attention, mental health awareness often lingers in the shadows when compared to other medical conditions. The two diseases stand at opposite ends of the spectrum of diagnosis, treatment and scientific understanding. [Read Full Article...](#)



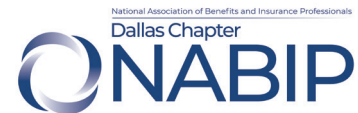
December Chapter Agendas

AUSTIN



www.austinhuh.org

DALLAS



Membership Chair Training

December 12, 2023
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Membership Meeting

December 20, 2023
11:30 AM - 1:15 PM

Vouy Meeting & Event Space 4445
Sigma Rd.
Dallas TX 75244

Membership Orientation - Virtual

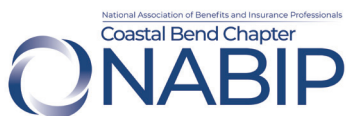
December 28, 2023
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Monthly Leadership Forum - Virtual

December 28, 2023
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

www.dahuh.org

COASTAL BEND

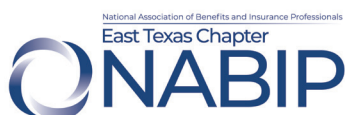


www.nabipcoastalbendtx.org

LONESTAR



EAST TEXAS



www.etahuh.org



www.lonestarahuh.org

December Chapter Agendas

FORT WORTH



December 15, 2023

Happy Hour Celebration
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Baja Grill
1212 William D Tate Ave.
Grapevine, TX 76501

www.nabip-fw.org

HOUSTON



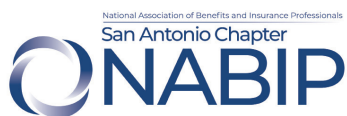
December 14, 2023

Houston Volunteer Event
12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Kids Meals - 330 Garden Oaks
Houston, TX 77018

Those volunteering, please wear comfortable clothing, closed toe shoes and a hat to help while preparing meals.

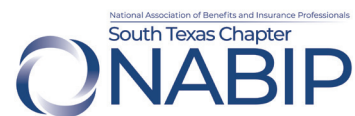
www.nabip-htx.org

SAN ANTONIO



www.sanantonioahu.org

SOUTH TEXAS



www.nabipsotx.org

Hollis Roberson Award

Nomination Form

2023 Texas Outstanding Health Insurance Industry Award



HOLLIS ROBERSON

1922 - 1989

The Texas Association of Health Underwriters' Hollis Roberson Award is presented each year to the person from Texas who meets the criteria of professionalism set forth by Hollis Roberson.

The recipient of the award is selected by the Hollis Roberson Award Committee which carefully reviews all persons nominated. In making its selection, the committee looks for contributions above and beyond the call of duty, without personal gain. Your recommendations must be supported by an accompanying statement that details the accomplishments of your candidate to include present and former positions, connections with health insurance, biographical information and, of utmost importance, the specific accomplishments that entitle your candidate to this prestigious award. ***Please note: only state board members (which includes local chapter presidents) and Hollis Roberson Committee members can submit nominations.***

Please complete this form and return to HRC by 3/01/2024.

2023 Hollis Roberson Award

Nomination Form

(Must be postmarked or received by fax/email on or before 3/01/2024)

I nominate _____

Local Chapter: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Submitted By: _____

Board Position: _____

Phone: _____

Important:

*Nominees **will not** be considered unless support materials are included.*

If you re-submit the same person you nominated last year, you only need to submit this Nomination Form. You may update it if you choose, but the Committee will carry forward the documentation you submitted one year prior.

Send completed form with accompanying documentation to: Lisa Strug, NABIP-TX Executive Director, 312 North Avenue East, Suite 5, Cranford, NJ 07016. Voice 713/645-1490; Fax 908-967-5044; admin@nabip-tx.org

Hollis Roberson Award

Nomination Criteria

1. Significant contribution of time and talent to further the health insurance industry.
2. Currently be, or have been, an active and contributing Member of the National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals – Texas Chapter.
3. Display the character traits and skills of leadership.
4. Promote the principles of professionalism and idealism
5. Show significant community support to all aspects of both personal and professional achievement.
6. Nominee must not have served as a NABIP-TX Officer on the NABIP-TX Board for at least two board years prior to the current board year.
7. A previous HRA Recipient may be nominated if at least seven (7) years have passed since receipt.

Previous Recipients

1990	Hollis Roberson, CLU, FLMI, RHU	2006	Stan Foster, RH
1990	Edna Kern, CLU, ChFC, RHU, LUTCF	2007	Dave Prewitt, RHU, LUTCF, REBC, CSA
1991	Donna Carnall, RHU	2008	Janet Trautwein
1992	Robert G. Campbell, Jr.	2009	Linda New, LUTCF
1993	Shirley H. Hutzler	2010	D. Mike McLaughlin, RHU, CLU, CIC, ChFC
1994	Thomas M. Schilling, RHU	2011	C. Briscoe Dunn
1995	Henry Dawson, CLU, RHU	2012	Carolyn Goodwin, CBC, SGS
1996	Phillip Von Stephens, RHU	2013	Ron Buffum, SGS
1997	Andrew M. Wolfson	2014	Mike Rivera, RHU, REBC, CLU, ChFC
1998	Elizabeth Ashmore	2015	Michael D. Smith, SGS, LTCP
1999	W. D. (Bill) Mann, Sr., LUTCF, RHU	2016	Russell Lee Rice, SGS
2000	Ouida Peterson	2017	C. Louanne Trebing, RHU, CLTC, SGS
2001	Ken Martin	2018	Laura Firestone, CPA
2005	Trei Wild	2019	Reid Rasmussen
2003	Caroline Hesseltine	2021	Ed Oleksiak
2004	Jim Smith	2022	*Rick Ott
2005	Trei Wild	2023	Jessica Watts

Bolded names are the 2023-24 Hollis Roberson Committee.

A member of the Hollis Roberson family (currently Trei Wild) and the NABIP-TX President-Elect (currently Stacy Cochran) are also on the Hollis Roberson Committee.

*** Denotes 2023-24 Hollis Roberson Committee Chair**

Award History

Hollis Roberson, CLU, FLMI, RHU, held a BS from the University of North Alabama, an MBA from Auburn University and an MS from Southern Methodist University. Mr. Roberson served the insurance industry in the capacity of life insurance company president, chief actuary and owner of his own agency. He served NAHU (now NABIP-TX) tirelessly first as Membership Chairman in 1986-87 and Region IV Vice President in 1986-87. He was elected First Vice President in 1988. Hollis directed the strategic planning committees for NAHU, Texas AHU, Fort Worth AHU and Dallas AHU. He published many articles and spoke to numerous health and life underwriter organizations. Hollis Roberson was the 1989 recipient of the Norman Medill Award for editorial contribution from NAHU. He was listed in Who's Who in Insurance in the South- Southwest. Hollis was the first recipient of the Hollis Roberson Award in 1989, which was established in his honor. Hollis died of cancer at the age of 67 on December 16, 1989, at his home in Rowlett, Texas. He was president-elect of NAHU at the time of his death.

Award Contributions

The Hollis Roberson Award is open for contributions. Contributors will be acknowledged each year at the annual NABIP-TX symposium during the Hollis Roberson Award ceremonies and acknowledged in the awards program.

- Individual membership contributions: \$100.00
- Corporate membership contributions: \$250.00

Contributions should be made to "Hollis Roberson Award Fund" and mailed to:

The Hollis Roberson Award Fund
Lisa Strug, NABIP-TX Executive Director
312 North Avenue East, Suite 5, Cranford, NJ 07016
Phone 713-645-1490
Fax 908-967-5044
admin@nabip-tx.org

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Click on each logo to visit their website

