**Texas Colorectal Cancer Treatment Initiative** – Modeled after the state breast and cervical cancer screening program, this new initiative will provide $10 million in state funding in the 2024-25 state budget for those Medicaid eligible with a household income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline. CPRIT funding will be leveraged to focus on increased overall CRC screening and diagnostic testing, while the new funding will provide the mechanism to ensure treatment for those diagnosed with CRC. This is the issue that we met with legislative offices on during TSGE Day at the Capitol on April 4.

**Passed, sent to the Governor:**

**House Bill 755 by Rep. Julie Johnson** – Relating to prior authorization for prescription drug benefits related to the treatment of autoimmune diseases. This bill would prohibit a health plan from requiring more than one prior authorization per year for a prescription drug used to treat an autoimmune disease. This is one of the bills you testified in support of before the House Insurance Committee on March 28.

**House Bill 1647 by Rep. Cody Harris** – Relating to health benefit plan coverage of clinician-administered drugs. This bill would prohibit the practice of white-bagging – insurers requiring physicians or facilities to purchase clinician-administered drugs through a specialty pharmacy – which health plans say saves money but causes potential dosage discrepancies for physicians and their patients. This is one of the bills you testified in support of before the House Insurance Committee on March 28.

**Senate Bill 812 by Sen. Judith Zaffirini** – Relating to food allergen in food service establishments, food manager certifications, and food service programs. This bill would require food establishments to post allergy awareness posters and require the Department of State Health Services to add food allergy training to food service employees to increase awareness of allergens and prevention of allergic reaction. TSGE supported this legislation as it could help patients with gluten and wheat intolerance.

**Did not pass:**

**Senate Bill 1700** **by Sen. César Blanco** – Would have given advanced practice registered nurses full independent diagnostic and prescriptive authority. The bill never received a hearing in the Senate Health & Human Services Committee.

**House Bill 4071** **by Rep. Stephanie Klick** – Would have given APRNs full independent diagnostic and prescriptive authority. The bill never received a hearing in the House Public Health Committee, which Rep. Klick serves as chair of.

**Senate Bill 945 by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst** – Would have created burdensome disclosure requirements of certain health care cost information by certain health care facilities, including ambulatory surgical centers. The bill passed out of the Senate but never received a hearing in the House Public Health Committee.

**House Bill 3351 by Rep. Caroline Harris** – Would have amended the Insurance Code to remove the prohibition against a health benefit plan from publishing physician-specific information that includes rankings, tiers, ratings, or other comparisons of a physician's performance against standards, measures, or other physicians unless certain requirements are met. The bill passed out of the House but never received a hearing in the Senate Health & Human Services Committee. This is one of the bills you testified in opposition to before the House Insurance Committee on March 28.