

January 25, 2008



The Honorable Judith Zaffirini  
Judith Zaffirini Campaign  
PO Box 627  
Laredo, TX 78042

Dear Senator Zaffirini:

HOSPAC, the state political action committee of the Texas Hospital Association, is pleased to endorse your candidacy for the Texas Senate in the March 4 primary election!

To get the word out about your endorsement, THA and HOSPAC will:

- distribute an endorsement newsletter prior to the primary elections, mailing to more than 10,000 THA members and key contacts;
- post the endorsement newsletter on both THA's and HOSPAC's Web sites; and
- be available to assist your campaign in promoting this endorsement to your media outlets.


Please use the enclosed **news release** to promote HOSPAC's endorsement. In addition, you may use HOSPAC's and/or the Texas Hospital Association's name in campaign advertising or other communications. If you want an electronic copy of the news release or further assistance with media relations activities, please contact Amanda Engler, THA's media relations director, at 512/465-1026.


One of the largest hospital associations in the country, THA represents more than 85 percent of the state's hospitals and health care systems, which employ more than 340,000 health care professionals statewide. Endorsement decisions are made by the HOSPAC Board of Directors, a diverse group representing all areas of the state. Decisions are based on candidates' positions on health care issues, previous support of health care issues, and input from local hospital representatives. We appreciate your interest in working with hospitals to reduce the state's uninsured population by making health insurance more accessible and affordable. You also share our goal of developing sound public health policies.

For your reference, enclosed is a copy of a **brochure about the uninsured crisis** and its impact on all Texans. This is a leave-behind piece THA is distributing in conjunction with its statewide speaking tour to educate business and community leaders about the broad impact of one in four Texans lacking health coverage. In addition, a **sheet summarizing key health care issues** also is provided. If you have questions or need further information about health care issues, please contact THA's John Hawkins, senior vice president of advocacy and public policy 512/465-1505. Hospitals look forward to working with you to improve health care in Texas.

Good luck in your election efforts!

Sincerely,

  
**Steve Sanders, FACHE**  
Chairman  
HOSPAC Board of Directors

  
**Dan Stultz, M.D., FACP, FACHE**  
President/CEO  
Texas Hospital Association

Enclosures: 3



TEXAS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**  
Amanda Engler, APR  
512/465-1050

## **Texas Hospital Association Endorses Judith Zaffirini for Texas Senate District 21**

AUSTIN (January 25, 2008) – The Texas Hospital Association’s state political action committee, HOSPAC, has endorsed Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) for Texas Senate District 21. One of the largest hospital associations in the country, THA represents more than 85 percent of the state’s hospitals and health care systems, which employ some 340,000 health care professionals statewide. The 33-member HOSPAC board makes endorsements based on a candidate’s position on health care issues and input from local hospital representatives.

“With one in every four Texans lacking health insurance coverage, the state has the highest rate of uninsured residents in the nation. This problem affects every Texan, even those who have health insurance, and it has broad implications for businesses and government, as well as for providers and payers,” said Dan Stultz, M.D., FACP, FACHE, president/chief executive officer of the Texas Hospital Association. “Texas has an uninsured crisis, and the Legislature must take action in 2009.”

Stultz noted that in making endorsements, the HOSPAC Board reviews incumbents’ voting records, seeks input from local hospital leaders and interviews candidates. “Judith Zaffirini has indicated a willingness to work with hospitals to address health care issues. Texas hospitals want to work with lawmakers on new policies that will make health insurance more accessible and affordable. Addressing the uninsured issue will help preserve access to hospital services for everyone by relieving some of the pressure caused by other issues, such as workforce shortages and escalating costs for supplies and pharmaceuticals,” he added.

“While the Texas Legislature has made important progress by removing Children’s Health Insurance Program barriers to enrollment for some 130,000 young people and creating a framework for Medicaid reform that may allow premium assistance to low-income working families, government programs alone cannot fix the problem, Stultz noted. “The 2008 elections provide the opportunity to elect candidates who will work with large and small employers, consumers, insurers, doctors and hospitals to fix our broken health care system,” he said. “Good health is the foundation for education and a sound economy. Texas has to make progress in 2009,” he added.

Founded in 1930, the Texas Hospital Association is the leadership organization and principal advocate for the state’s hospitals and health care systems. Based in Austin, THA enhances its members’ abilities to improve accessibility, quality and cost-effectiveness of health care for Texans.