



## State Representative Jim Jackson District 115

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### **REP. JIM JACKSON FILES BILL MAKING EMPLOYERS LIABLE FOR SOME INDIGENT EMPLOYEES HEALTH CARE**

AUSTIN--State Representative Jim Jackson (R-Carrollton) has introduced H.B. 1744 that makes employers liable for medical services provided to illegal aliens under the Indigent Health Care & Treatment Act in the Health and Safety Code.

H.B. 1744 allows a county, public hospital, or hospital district to bill an employer to recover costs for medical services provided to illegal aliens. Under provisions of the bill, a county, public hospital, or hospital district may bring action against the employer who knowingly employs an illegal alien and who would otherwise qualify as an eligible resident of the county, public hospital, or hospital district in which the services were provided at the time the individual received health care services. An application procedure requires an applicant to provide employer information.

"Texas taxpayers should not have to pay the bill for undocumented workers' health care." "The employer who hires and benefits from cheap labor performed by illegal workers should be responsible for their health care insurance," said Rep. Jackson. An employer who turns a blind eye to an illegal employee exacerbates the problems of illegal immigration." "Why should the average citizen furnish health care to persons who are in this country illegally?"

One estimate by the Lone Star Foundation published in 2006 says the net cost to the state of Texas for illegal immigrants is \$3.5 billion annually. Also, in a comptroller's report published in December of that year; it states that in 2005 local governments bore the burden of costs for illegal immigration for uncompensated health care and local law enforcement costs with net expenditures of \$928.9 million. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission estimates that the state spent \$81.2 million on services and benefits to undocumented immigrants in fiscal 2007; and that public hospital districts spent \$597.8 million in fiscal 2006 on uncompensated care for this population.

Jackson stated, "Industries and Texas economy should not be built on illegal labor." "The cost to local governments of additional services--including uncompensated health care, law enforcement and education cannot be ignored." "It is only fair to address the problem of illegal immigration on the demand side as well as the supply side." "The state should not spend its finite resources when the state has other pressing needs."

To contact State Representative Jim Jackson to share your views on these or other issues: In Austin: Phone: 512-463-0486, Address: P.O. Box 2910, Austin, Texas 78768-2910. In the district: Phone: 972-416-7698, Address: 1120 Metrocrest Drive #107, Carrollton, Texas 75006.