**Legislative Update:**

**Failed Bills**

* + HB1537/SB498 (Goodwin/Sparks) Counseling Compact
  + HB3503/SB1726 (Darby/Johnson) Social Work Licensure Compact
  + HB1716/SB469 (Darby/Sparks) Medicaid reimbursement for Associates *Died in Sen. H&HS*
  + HB4721/SB51 (Romero/Zaffirini) MFT, LPC, and SW updates
  + SB1081 (West) Establishes the Texas Art Therapy Board
  + HB11 (Phelan) Omnibus Reciprocity *LPC, MFT, and SW reciprocity authority removed at House committee level*  
      
    **Bills Passed**
  + **SB1 (Huffman) 2026-27 State Budget**  
      
    **Baseline request** (our current biennial budget).

**$125K** for the design of a Texas-owned psychology licensing exam.

**$418K** (out of $837K requested) to fill six vacant FTE positions.

**$400K** to cover NPDB subscription costs.

Rider language was approved by both chambers requiring the Comptroller to cover any money judgments against the agency related to the recent lawsuit brought by two SW applicants denied under Chapter 108 of the Occupations Code.

Rider language was approved, with an additional appropriation of $200K, to develop (i.e., translate) a Spanish language version of the licensing exam for Licensed Masters Social Workers (LMSWs) and release same by September 1, 2027.

6% Salary Increase for General Counsel and Staff Attorneys

* + HB12 (Bell) Efficiency Audits by SAO
  + HB229 (Troxclair) Use of male or female only when collecting vital statistics
  + HB3801 (Orr) Creation of Health Professions Workforce Coordinating Council and abolition of Statewide Health Coordinating Council
  + HB5196 (Capriglione) Telework by State Employees
  + HB5629 (Wilson) Military Licensing
  + SB12 (Creighton) Prohibits Social Transitioning in Public Schools and requires written consent for psychological testing or treatment
  + SB14 (King) DOGE Office w/in OOG
  + SB646 (West) Student Loan Repayment for Mental Health Professionals
  + SB912 (Blanco) Mandated Use of Online CE Management System
  + SB1080 (West) Restricts Agency’s Ability to Deny Licensure Due to Criminal History
  + SB1188 (Kolkhorst) Use of AI when diagnosing or determining course of treatment for patient
  + SB1401 (West) Texas Mental Health Profession Pipeline Program by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
  + SB1818 (Hancock) Issuance of provisional license to military applicants
  + SB2587 (Zaffirini) LPC Associate named in statute; secures fingerprint background check authority for LPC-A’s.