

# Texas Hospitals Support Mental Health Parity



**House Bill 10**  
Rep. Four Price  
(R-Amarillo)



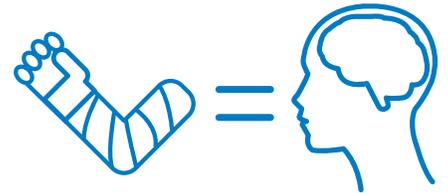
**Senate Bill 860**  
Sen. Judith Zaffirini  
(D-Laredo)



## HB 10/SB 860 establish mental health parity in Texas

by increasing the Texas Department of Insurance's authority to fully enforce mental health parity.

**Mental health parity** means that health plans cannot disproportionately impose limitations on mental health and substance use disorder treatment.



Eliminating differences in how treatment for physical and mental health conditions is reimbursed and administered will:

**improve access**  
to timely, medically necessary treatment

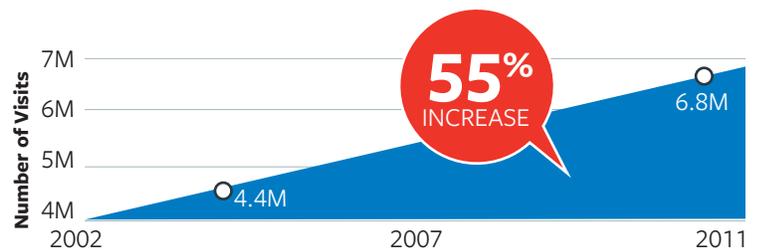
**improve behavioral health outcomes**  
(reduce crises)

**help normalize**  
treatment for mental health and substance use disorders

**reduce** hospitals' uncompensated care costs

## Hospital Emergency Department Psychiatric Visits 2002-2011

Because mental health and physical health treatment currently are treated differently, many Texans have to wait until they experience a behavioral **health crisis before seeking treatment**, often in clinically inappropriate settings, such as hospital emergency departments.



Total ED visits over the same period only grew by 30 percent.

Source: Health Affairs, Sept. 2016



improve access to timely, medically necessary behavioral health treatment.

For more information, visit: [www.tha.org/BehavioralHealth](http://www.tha.org/BehavioralHealth)