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**Children's Hospital Association of Texas recognizes
Representative Philip Cortez with Children's Health Care Hero Award**

Austin, TX – The Children's Hospital Association of Texas (CHAT) honored Representative Philip Cortez with the Children's Health Care Hero Award for his outstanding contributions and support of children's healthcare initiatives. Representative Cortez authored and worked to pass legislation that ensures children in Texas are able to keep their Medicaid eligibility and receive access to the health care each Texas child deserves. The award was presented to Representative Cortez on Thursday, Nov. 4th in San Antonio.

"Representative Cortez is a champion and an advocate for children," Stacy Wilson, president of CHAT, said. "Texas has the highest number and percentage of uninsured children in the country. Representative Cortez's commitment to the passage of this legislation will ensure that more children in Texas can keep their Medicaid coverage and not have gaps in care that result from losing that coverage due to administrative issues. We are grateful to him for his dedication to keeping children safe and healthy, and we are proud to honor him with this award for his leadership in supporting children's hospitals across the state."

Medicaid provides health coverage to almost four million children in Texas. Medicaid also provides services for children with medically complex conditions to supplement what their private insurance covers so that they can stay at home and at school as much as possible. The Children's Health Care Hero Award recognizes Texas leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to a high-quality and appropriately funded children's healthcare system in Texas.

It is an honor to be recognized as a Children's Health Care Hero by the Children's Hospital Association of Texas," Representative Cortez said. "Children in Texas deserve access to the best health care possible, regardless of their family's income or health insurance coverage. I am honored to work with CHAT and their hospitals who care for the most medically complex children in Texas."

Cortez represents District 117 in San Antonio, which accounts for part of Bexar County.

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About the Children's Hospital Association of Texas

The Children's Hospital Association of Texas (CHAT) is a non-profit association whose mission is to advance children's health and well-being by advocating for policies and funding that promote children's access to high-quality, comprehensive health care. Learn more about CHAT at chatexas.com or follow CHAT on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ChildHospAssnTX>.