



# Historical Overview of Telemedicine in Texas

Presentation to the House Committee on Public Health

Nora Belcher, Executive Director

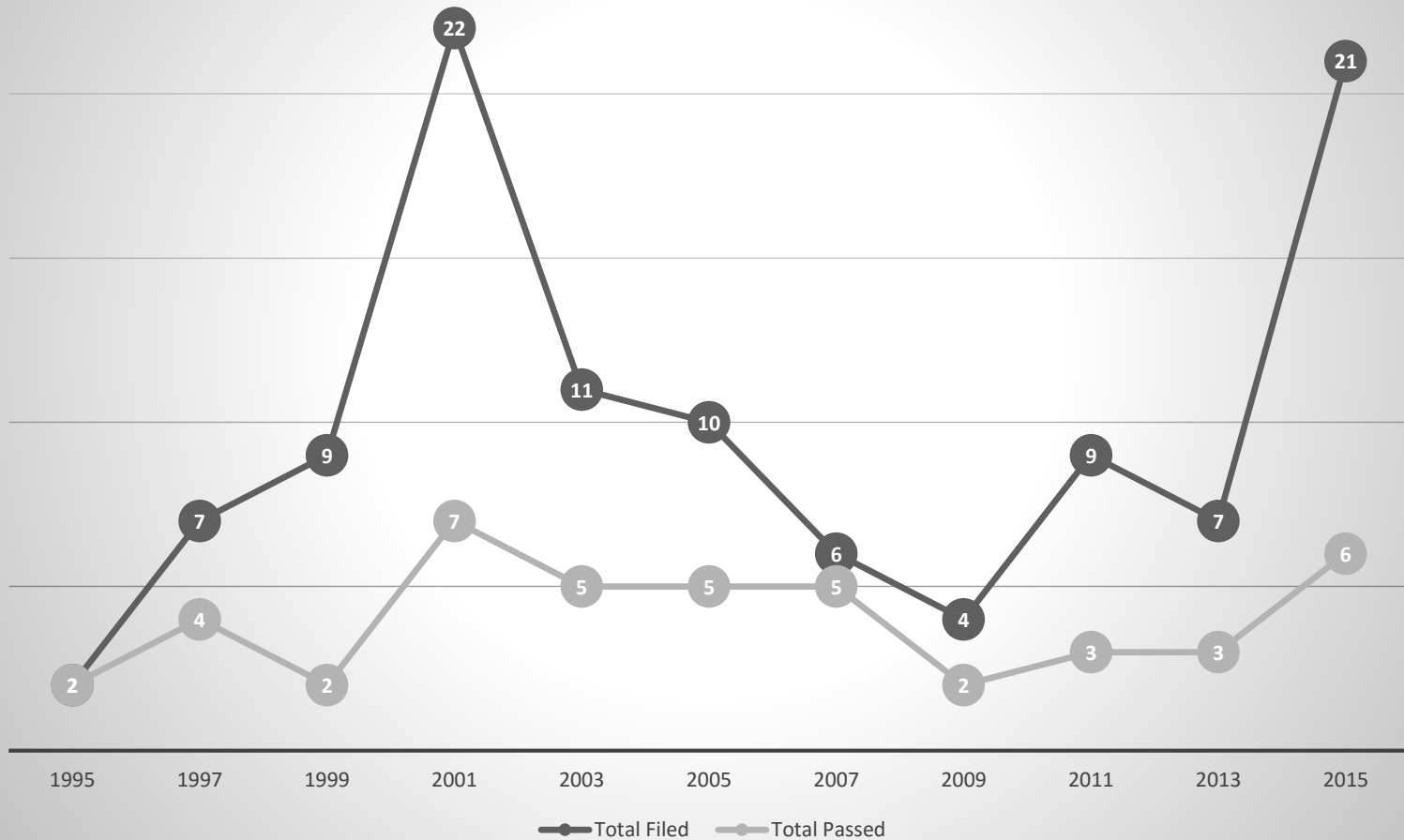
Texas e-Health Alliance

February 10, 2016

# Presentation Outline

- Telemedicine Bills from 1995 to 2015
- Significant Milestones
- Telemedicine by the Numbers
- National Developments

## Telemedicine Bills in The Texas Legislature



# Significant Milestones in Telemedicine

- Project Bluebonnet begins- 1989 to 1991
- Texas Tech program begins- 1989
- HCR 189 by Rep. Ashley Smith- 1991
- UTMB-Galveston program begins- 1994
- Telecommunications Infrastructure Board established- 1995
- Private insurance parity law passed- 1997
- Initial Medicaid benefit established- 1997
- Medicaid telemedicine committee established- 2001
- TIF fund hits statutory cap- 2003
- Medicaid remote monitoring benefit established- 2011

*“As of February 2000, the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (TIF) supported 95 telemedicine projects at an estimated total cost of \$56.2 million since the grants first were awarded in January 1999. Six separate grants provide funds to all 10 state-funded health science centers and to 716 of the estimated 1,130 public, nonprofit health-care facilities in Texas.”*

*HRO Report by Kristie Zamrazil, May 5, 2000*

# Telemedicine by the Numbers

- Amount billed to Medicaid in 2005- \$29,117
  - Patients treated by Medicaid- 332
- Amount billed to Medicaid in 2013- \$2,768,685
  - Patients treated by Medicaid- 17,416
- Amount billed to Medicare in 2012- approx. \$5 million (of \$446 billion in program spending)
  - Patients treated by Medicare- less than 1% of caseload
- TIF funding for healthcare- \$110 million
- 34 of 39 Community Centers utilize telemedicine
  - psychiatry, jail-based screening, crisis assessments, court-based services and services for Veterans through contracts with the Veterans Administration (VA)

# National Developments

- American Telemedicine Association's primary and specialty care practice guidelines:  
[http://www.americantelemed.org/resources/telemedicine-practice-guidelines/telemedicine-practice-guidelines#.Vq99Y\\_krKhc](http://www.americantelemed.org/resources/telemedicine-practice-guidelines/telemedicine-practice-guidelines#.Vq99Y_krKhc)
- Federation of State Medical Boards telemedicine guidelines:  
[https://www.fsmb.org/Media/Default/PDF/FSMB/Advocacy/FSMB\\_Telemedicine\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.fsmb.org/Media/Default/PDF/FSMB/Advocacy/FSMB_Telemedicine_Policy.pdf)



# Questions?

**Nora Belcher**

Executive Director

Texas e-Health Alliance

[nora@txeha.org](mailto:nora@txeha.org)

(512) 536-1340