

National Briefing Southwest: Texas: Health Care Inquiry

The New York Times

July 31, 2001 Tuesday, Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 5; **National** Desk; Pg. 16

Length: 139 words

Byline: AP

Body

A criminal investigation was begun after a complaint by the Young Conservatives of **Texas** that the Harris County Hospital District is forcing the public to pay for nonemergency **health care** for illegal immigrants. Chuck Rosenthal, the district attorney, said he agreed with an opinion issued by John Cornyn, the **Texas** attorney general, earlier this month interpreting a 1996 federal law to say that states could not provide such **care** to illegal immigrants unless the state legislature had authorized it. Mr.

Cornyn said **Texas** had no law authorizing spending for such **care**. Marc Levin, vice chairman of the Young Conservatives, said his group might file complaints in Bexar, Dallas and El Paso Counties. The Harris County district has spent \$330 million to treat and immunize illegal immigrants in the last three years, Mr. Levin said.

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (90%); INVESTIGATIONS (90%); CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (78%); US STATE GOVERNMENT (78%); PUBLIC PROSECUTORS (78%); COUNTY GOVERNMENT (78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (73%); ATTORNEYS GENERAL (73%)

Organization: YOUNG CONSERVATIVES OF **TEXAS**

Industry: HOSPITALS (78%)

Person: JOHN CORNYN (73%); LEVIN, MARC

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Geographic: EL PASO, TX, USA (58%); DALLAS, TX, USA (58%); **TEXAS**, USA (94%); HARRIS COUNTY (TEX); **TEXAS**

Load-Date: July 31, 2001

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