

GET THE FACTS




Physicians Caring for Texans


SCOPE-OF-PRACTICE EXPANSION DOES **NOT** SOLVE ACCESS-TO-CARE SHORTAGES


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MYTH


 Texas families, especially rural Texans, want to let nurse practitioners practice medicine without physician oversight.

 Nurse-led care is safe and cost-effective.


 Nurse training is equivalent to that of physicians.

 Scope-of-practice expansion is the only solution to increase access to care in rural and underserved areas.


FACT

 Four decades of statewide voter polling has consistently shown Texans in rural areas and statewide **OPPOSED by more than a 2:1 margin** to allowing nurses to practice medicine without physician supervision. In a recent February 2025 Texas Polling Group statewide survey of 1,000 Texas voters, it found: **63% OPPOSE** versus 25% favor allowing nurses to provide patient care without physician supervision. Among **RURAL** voters, **61% OPPOSE** versus 23% favor. Among **Republicans**, **66% OPPOSE** versus 24% favor. And among **Democrats**, **61% OPPOSE** versus 27% favor.


Source: Feb. 12-16, 2025, Texas Polling Group Statewide Survey; 1,000 Voter Interviews, ±3.1% Margin of Error, 95% Level of Confidence.

 Research in other states has shown that nurses practicing patient care independently prescribe more, order more tests, have higher referral and hospitalization rates, and perform more poorly on quality measures than physicians – all of which can lead to **greater patient safety risks** and **higher health care costs**.

Sources: National Bureau of Economic Research, a VA patient study examining care by nurse practitioners without physician supervision. The Productivity of Professions: Evidence from the Emergency Department. Working paper, October 2022. www.nber.org/papers/w30608; and the 2022 Hattiesburg Clinic study: Targeting Value-Based Care with Physician-Led Teams. <https://ejournal.msmaonline.com/publication/?m=63060&i=735364&p=20&ver=html5>.

 Nurse Practitioners have **only 5% the education and clinical training of physicians**. In 2019, 60% of nurse practitioner programs were **mostly or completely online**.

Source: American Medical Association

 Texas has one of the best health care systems in the United States because it's made strong and healthy investments to proven policies and programs that produce a **highly trained and skilled physician workforce** including:

- Loan repayment programs that encourage physicians to train and practice in rural and underserved areas.
- More residency programs across the state, many in rural areas.
- GME Expansion Grant program and the State Rural Resident Training Grant program.
- Expanding broadband so more people can get care via telemedicine.

We need to continue making these investments and taking steps to improve physician practice viability in rural and underserved areas of Texas. In fact, adding just 80 primary care physicians to the workforce in the right places could remove current gaps.

Source: Texas Medical Association analysis of Health Resources and Services Administration data

LET'S *NOT* PUT TEXAS PATIENTS AT-RISK BY LOWERING THE STANDARD OF MEDICAL CARE IN TEXAS.