



House Public Health Committee
Testimony by Jason Terk, MD
for House Bill 3540 by Rep. Sam Harless
April 28, 2025

Chair VanDeaver, Vice Chair Campos and committee members,

I am Dr. Jason Terk, a pediatrician in Keller, representing the Texas Medical Association (TMA) and Texas Pediatric Society (TPS). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of** House Bill 3540.

First, our organizations would like to thank Chair Harless for his dedication to child health and his willingness to work with us to find common ground on this historically contentious issue. We wholeheartedly agree that ensuring access to timely vaccination is key in preventing the spread of vaccine-preventable illness. We also appreciate the attentiveness to promoting the pediatric medical home and ensuring children have access to the full range of preventive health services in the well-child exam. This compromise legislation strikes a fine balance between those two priorities, which has prompted TMA and TPS to support the bill.

By lowering to the age of 5 the age at which a pharmacist can vaccinate a child, we allow families to benefit from some convenience and access from which they benefited during the public health emergency, while still ensuring our youngest patients are coming into the medical home for vaccinations, developmental screenings, anticipatory guidance, and many more preventive health care services that I provide every day in my clinic.

Additionally, this legislation will ensure that when a child receives a vaccination at a pharmacy, the medical home is notified within three days, so we can ensure ongoing collaboration and coordination between health care settings.

Finally, we want to thank all stakeholders involved for their intention to look at ways to bolster participation in the Vaccines for Children program so all children can benefit from increased access to vaccination.

Again, thank you to Chair Harless for his efforts and thank you to the committee for your time.