



Physicians Caring for Texans

House Committee on Public Health
Testimony by Jimmy Widmer, MD, for the Texas Medical Association
Regarding House Bill 3794
April 14, 2025

Good morning, my name is Dr. Jimmy Widmer, and I practice internal medicine in Temple. On behalf of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) and its more than 59,000 members, I thank Chair VanDeaver, Vice Chair Campos, and the members of the House Committee on Public Health for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to House Bill 3794.

As an internist, I practice in hospitals and outpatient settings, and I provide primary care for my patients. Primary care physicians are the first line of defense, not just for preventative care, but also for lowering the cost of care for patients. Correct and effective treatment is critical to preventing more complex health conditions that can lead to increased need for specialist care, emergency department visits, prolonged hospital stays, and time away from jobs and family.

The quality of care improves with appropriate physician-led, team-based care models, which promote oversight and collaboration while keeping patient safety the priority.

Under Texas' current framework, a physician is involved before, during, and after care is provided by an advanced practice registered nurse, or APRN. On the front end, a physician's written protocol sets forth the steps for an APRN to take in respect to specific conditions, diseases, or symptoms, and states the medications that may or may not be prescribed. The delegation agreement between the physician and APRN must include a plan for consultation, referral, and the process for communication and the sharing of information between the physician and the APRN.

On the back end, there is chart review and a meeting at least every month on patient treatment and care, needed changes in patient care plans, issues relating to referrals, and patient care improvement.

While APRNs are a critical part of the health care team, removing physician involvement is not the answer for better patient care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any questions.