



Physicians Caring for Texans

Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Testimony by Ezequiel “Zeke” Silva III, MD, Texas Medical Association
Senate Bill 1373
May 19, 2025

Good afternoon, my name is Dr. Zeke Silva and I am an interventional radiologist in San Antonio. On behalf of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) and its more than 59,000 members, we thank Chair Kolkhorst, Vice Chair Perry, and the members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for the opportunity to testify in respectful opposition to Senate Bill 1373.

TMA opposes this legislation because it would narrow the criteria considered in the privileging process for each hospital in Texas.

The bill would require that hospital determinations regarding medical staff privileges employ criteria in a consistent manner to each person seeking to obtain, modify, or renew staff privileges.

However, the different health care professionals to whom this would apply – physicians, dentists, and podiatrists – do not all have the same education, training, experience, or scope of licensure.

It is also unclear how this requirement – to apply criteria consistently to each health care professional – would interact with other statutory provisions that are profession-specific. For example, the statute currently allows graduate medical education and board certification to be used as a standard or qualification for medical staff privileges for a physician.

The current system works to protect Texas patients. It is effective because the hospital medical staff is provided the freedom to establish its requirements for clinical privileges based on its local community, patient population, patient safety, need, practicality of providing privileges for certain procedures, and the capability and availability of resources at each particular hospital, as well as on the applicant’s qualifications, licensure, education, training, and experience.

Additionally, we are concerned this bill is an attempt to circumvent Texas law on scope of practice for a podiatrist. Texas law is clear that a podiatrist’s scope of practice is limited to the foot, which does **not** include the ankle. A hospital should have the freedom to deny a category of privileges to a podiatrist where such privileges may result in a violation of Texas’s scope of practice laws.

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