



Physicians Caring for Texans

**Senate State Affairs Committee**  
**Testimony Against Senate Bill 3055 by Deborah Fuller, MD, for the**  
**Texas Medical Association**  
*May 1, 2025*

Good morning, Chair Hughes, Vice Chair Paxton, and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Deborah Fuller. I am a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Dallas. My credentials include an undergraduate degree from Southern Methodist University, a medical degree from The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (now the TMB John Sealy School of Medicine), and a four-year OB-gyn residency training at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. I am testifying today on behalf of myself, Texas physicians and our patients with the support of the Texas Medical Association, in opposition to Senate Bill 3055.

The testimony you hear today on Senate Bill 3055 should be about improving the health of all Texans – especially those in underserved rural areas – and not about physicians versus our valued colleagues, advanced nurse practitioners. I have had the privilege of working alongside nurse practitioners in my office since 1995. I currently work closely with two advanced nurse practitioner programs in North Texas to provide OB-gyn clinical hours to nurse practitioners in training.

Dismantling our physician-led, team-based model of care is not the answer to Texas' rural access-to-care shortages. SB 3055 would grant certain advanced practice registered nurses, or APRNs, authority to formulate medical diagnoses and prescribe independently – including controlled substances in Schedules III through V – and serve as a patient's primary care provider, all without physician supervision. This is a fundamental shift in how health care is delivered in Texas, and it potentially puts patient safety at risk.

Texas voters agree with this concern. Survey data shows that 63% of statewide voters and 61% of rural voters oppose expanding nurse practitioner scope of practice without physician supervision.

States that have expanded nurse practitioner scope of practice show access to that care in rural areas does not improve health outcomes. Nurse practitioners tend to practice in urban and suburban settings, leaving rural shortages unsolved. Studies show independent practice by nurse practitioners can lead to higher rates of unnecessary prescribing, testing, and hospitalizations – potentially increasing costs and lowering quality.

TMA's position is clear: Nurses are indispensable members of the health care team, but patient care must remain physician-led to ensure the highest standards and best outcomes. We should not create a two-tiered system where rural and underserved Texans are offered a lower standard of care.

Instead of a health care model shift, let's invest in proven solutions: expanding graduate medical education, incentivizing physicians to serve in rural communities, and strengthening physician-led team-based care. These strategies will address our access challenges and ensure all Texans, regardless of where they live, receive the same high standard of care.

For the safety of Texas patients and the future of our health care system, **I urge you to reject SB 3055.**

Thank you for your time and your commitment to the health of all Texans. I am available to answer questions.