



Physicians Caring for Texans

**Senate Committee on State Affairs**  
**Testimony by Jayesh Shah, MD, Texas Medical Association**  
**Senate Bill 3055**  
*May 1, 2025*

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Good morning, Chair and Committee Members. My name is Dr. Jayesh Shah. I am a practicing physician from San Antonio, and I began my medical career in rural Uvalde, Texas.

There, I witnessed firsthand what it truly means to be a rural doctor.

We are the first call – and often the only call – when emergencies happen. We diagnose, treat, and care for patients without a full team of specialists behind us.

In these settings, there is no margin for error – and no shortcut to competence.

Throughout my career, I have worked with many nurse practitioners in physician-led, team-based care models. When I used to interview nurse practitioners, the hiring process was often confusing. Many of those candidates had online training with very limited hands-on clinical experience. There are also many types of nurse practitioners (NPs) – such as acute care NPs, geriatric NPs, and family NPs – and it is often unclear what each is qualified to do. There's simply no standardization.

If it's confusing for me as a physician, I can only imagine how confusing it must be for Texas patients.

Senate Bill 3055 proposes a shortcut.

It would allow non-physicians – without the same years of medical school, residency, and rigorous hands-on training physicians undergo – to independently practice medicine.

It's like building a house with no foundation. It is just not safe.

This bill claims to solve an access issue, but in reality, it risks creating two standards of care – one for rural Texans and another for those in urban areas.

Our rural communities deserve not just care, they deserve the best care. Every Texan deserves a physician.

I urge you: Please do not lower the standards that protect patients.

Please, stand with us – and with rural Texas – and oppose SB 3055. Every Texan – rural or urban – deserves a doctor, not a shortcut.

Thank you.