



Physicians Caring for Texans

Senate Committee on State Affairs
Testimony by Yasser Zeid, MD, Texas Medical Association
Senate Bill 3055
May 1, 2025

Good afternoon, Chair Hughes and members of the committee. My name is Dr. Yasser Zeid. I have been a practicing obstetrician-gynecologist in East Texas for over 26 years and currently serve as the chief medical officer at Corpus Christi Medical Center. I am here today to respectfully oppose Senate Bill 3055.

Certified nurse midwives can graduate having participated in few as 30 to 40 deliveries. To put this into perspective, I performed over 400 deliveries and 100 cesarean sections in my first year of training as an OB-gyn resident. This stark difference highlights the substantial gap in clinical experience and underscores the critical importance of physician oversight and collaboration in health care delivery.

Physicians undergo rigorous and standardized medical education, including four years of medical school followed by three to seven years of residency, totaling 12,000 to 16,000 hours of clinical training. Nurse practitioners, in contrast, receive approximately 500 to 720 clinical training hours, only about 5% of physician training. Allowing advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) independent practice without foundational medical education cannot ensure patient safety or equivalent care.

The premise that this bill would expand health care access in rural Texas is misguided. Data consistently demonstrates that APRNs gravitate toward the same areas where physicians practice, driven largely by economic viability rather than location-based need. Rural Texans deserve the same high standard of care provided by a physician-led health care team. Diluting standards risks increased health care costs, unnecessary referrals, higher rates of misdiagnoses, and potential harm from inadequate management of complex medical conditions.

Instead of SB 3055, we should pursue solutions that genuinely address rural health care access, such as increasing funding for graduate medical education, expanding telemedicine with payment parity, and supporting rural residency training programs and loan repayment incentives. I urge the committee to prioritize patient safety and uphold the integrity of physician-led health care in Texas by opposing SB 3055.

Thank you.