



Physicians Caring for Texans

House Committee on Human Services
Testimony by Doug Curran, MD, Texas Medical Association
House Bill 3151 (FQHC Credentialing) by Chair Lacey Hull
April 8, 2025

Thank you, Chair Hull, Vice-Chair Manuel, and committee members, for allowing me to testify today. My name is Dr. Doug Curran and I'm a family physician in East Texas, testifying on behalf of the Texas Medical Association and its more than 59,000 members IN SUPPORT of House Bill 3151 by Chair Hull. This bill would allow Federally Qualified Health Centers to access the same expedited credentialing process currently available to physicians and providers who join other types of practice groups participating in Medicaid.

As you know, FQHCs are a backbone of the Medicaid safety net in Texas, serving over 600,000 Medicaid patients annually. When they hire a new physician or provider, they must wait for the new hire to be credentialed by Medicaid managed care plans before they can be reimbursed for services performed by yet-to-be credentialed physicians or providers. That process can take many months – leaving FQHCs to cover the cost of care out-of-pocket.

Let me give you a real-world example of what this means.

East Texas Community Clinic (ETCC), an FQHC look-alike serving a high Medicaid population, received its designation and enrolled in Texas Medicaid in April 2023. Immediately, the clinic began the process to get credentialed in one of the Medicaid MCO's provider networks.

Six months later – after repeated outreach to the MCO, calls from legislative offices, and intervention from our physician advocacy organization – ETCC is still not properly credentialed. The delay stems in part from the MCO's third-party credentialing entity misclassifying ETCC as a group practice rather than an FQHC. Although that mistake was acknowledged months ago, neither the MCO nor their third-party credentialing entity have yet to resolve it.

This delay has put the clinic's financial viability at risk, and it has left thousands of Medicaid patients in limbo.

This situation is exactly why we need HB 3151. FQHCs are highly regulated and should be able to serve Medicaid patients while their credentialing is finalized – just like physicians joining a group practice can today. HB 3151 is a common-sense fix that will ensure patients aren't left waiting and health centers aren't punished for trying to meet the needs of underserved communities.

Thank you for your time, and I urge your support of this important bill. I appreciate your work, and I am happy to answer any questions.