



Physicians Caring for Texans

**House Public Health Committee**  
**Testimony by Tilden Childs III, MD, Texas Medical Association**  
**House Bill 4404**  
*April 17, 2023*

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Good (morning/afternoon/evening), my name is Dr. Tilden Childs, and I am a radiologist from Fort Worth. On behalf of the Texas Medical Association, we thank Chairwoman Klick, Vice Chair Campos, and the members of the House Public Health Committee for the opportunity to respectfully testify in opposition to House Bill 4404.

TMA opposes this legislation because it is not really an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) license portability bill, but instead is a bill that would preempt Texas scope of practice laws. It would grant independent practice authority to Texas and out-of-state nurses who obtain a multistate license under the APRN Compact. The compact would authorize an APRN to “assume responsibility and accountability for patient care independent of any supervisory or collaborative relationship.” The multistate license also would “include prescriptive authority for noncontrolled prescription drugs.” These provisions would supplant existing Texas law requiring APRNs to practice and prescribe under physician delegation and supervision.

In deciding your position on this legislation, we respectfully ask you to consider the goal of the bill. Is it to increase the number of APRNs in the state? Research by the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies shows we have more APRNs than the projected need. Nurse practitioners in Texas are expected to grow by 117% by 2032, with an excess of 19,000 nurse practitioners over the projected demand.

Physicians are united on the belief that no matter where you live in Texas you deserve the highest level of team-based care, led by a physician. I am proud to say that Texas has done an amazing job in growing our physician workforce. Physicians view our state as a good place to practice medicine. Even with decades of high population growth, the Texas physician population is growing at a faster rate than the overall population.

Last year, Texas had over 7,000 applicants for a medical license, and licensed more than 6,500 new physicians. Both were historic numbers, and 80% of these physicians were educated outside of Texas.

We would also like to recognize each one of you and your colleagues for prioritizing state funding for graduate medical education (GME). This has enabled our state to reach the state's target ratio of 1.1 first year GME slots for every medical school graduate. This is absolutely necessary in order to be prepared for the growth in medical school graduates that is coming, as a result of the new medical schools in the state.

These efforts will allow patients – whether rural or urban – to have the same standard of team-based care.

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