

Overcoming Obstacles:

Advancing Care Through Legislative Action



Physicians Caring for Texans

[texmed.org/Legislature](https://www.texmed.org/Legislature)



ACCESS TO CARE

- Stop scope of practice expansion and grow the physician workforce: Protect patient safety and address health care workforce shortages in a way that ensures patients have access to the same standard of high-quality, physician-led care no matter where they live.
- Enhance health care access: Advance coverage for under- and uninsured Texans, while helping physicians expand their ability to care for Medicaid patients with healthier payment rates.
- Expand access to care with telemedicine payment parity: Improve access with high-quality, physician-led telemedicine care covered at the same rate as in-person visits.
- Protect public health by defending Texas' vaccine laws: Resist measures aimed at rolling back safeguards that ensure access to routine child and adult immunizations.



PRACTICE VIABILITY

- Safeguard medical liability protections: Preserve Texas' landmark medical liability reforms and prevent new liability risks that threaten access to care.
- Reform prior authorization and streamline Medicaid: Pursue comprehensive prior authorization reform and cut down on other burdensome health plan practices that contribute to rising health care costs, threaten the viability of independent medical practices, and compromise patient care.
- Ensure new technology is physician vetted: Seek balanced regulation of AI that supports physician practices but does not replace physicians' medical expertise; protect patient privacy in the use of AI and other health information technology.



PHYSICIAN AUTONOMY

- Improve women's health: Improve funding and supportive services that ensure healthy outcomes for women, mothers, and babies; and get clarity on exceptions to the state's abortion laws so physicians can safely treat pregnant women in crisis while protecting the patient-physician relationship from criminalization.
- Allow physicians to practice as trained: Protect physician autonomy and keep non-medical entities from interfering with patient care, particularly amid health care consolidation.
- Develop a noncompetete agreement law that works for all physicians: Improve use of noncompetetes such that they balance employed physicians' ability to practice medicine and promote care continuity of care, while respecting employer physicians' ability to protect legitimate business interests.