



Proposed Legislative Change

Let's Improve Delivery of Healthcare in Texas

Improve healthcare delivery for Texas families by amending the Nursing Practice Act to grant Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) authority to diagnose and prescribe (Nursing Board-Granted Prescriptive Authority).

THE FACTS

- People in 35 states and the District of Columbia benefit from more accessible, quality healthcare because APRN authority to diagnose and prescribe is granted by each state's nursing board.
- Diagnosis and prescribing are included in APRN educational programs and national certification exams.
- APRNs in Texas have had physician-delegated, site-based prescriptive authority since 1989.
- APRN diagnosis and prescribing are strictly regulated by the Texas Board of Nursing.
- Research shows APRNs diagnose and prescribe accurately and safely.
- APRNs are educated to recognize when consultation or referral is needed.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- APRNs are more likely than physicians to care for underserved people.
- 50% of 961 APRNs said they would be very likely to work in an underserved location if Texas removed requirements for a delegating physician.
- Nursing Board-Granted Prescriptive Authority will allow APRNs to provide healthcare where no physicians practice.
- Updating diagnostic and prescriptive authority for APRNs will result in more cost-effective and efficient delivery of healthcare services.
- Streamlining APRN's authority to diagnose and prescribe will allow APRN-physician collaboration to focus on the patient's needs first.

IMPROVE ACCOUNTABILITY & SAFETY

- Nursing Board-Granted Prescriptive Authority will result in a more efficient healthcare delivery system with improved accountability.
- Prescriptions would be correctly tracked, outcomes accurately analyzed, and test results and refill requests routed to the right provider.

Help APRNs Improve Healthcare for All Texans