

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1616

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

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Hearing Date: March 31, 2021 8:00 AM

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Heidi Weber, RDH

TDHA

Fort Worth, TX

Im in favor and hope this expands to dentistry.

Christina Hoppe

Children's Hospital Association of Texas

Austin, TX

The Children's Hospital Association of Texas supports HB 1616.

Darren Meyer

Association of American Physicians and Surgeons

McKinney, TX

My name is Darren Meyer, and I am a physician in private practice in McKinney, Texas. I have been in practice in Texas since 1989, and have practiced in both public and private clinics in Collin, Dallas, Tarrant, and Lamar Counties. I wish to register my opposition to HB 1616.

1. This bill is not necessary, as a much simpler solution is to simplify the process for becoming licensed to practice in Texas as provided for by HB 471 (Shaheen).
2. This bill impairs the autonomy of physicians practicing in Texas by subjecting them to another administrative body that does nothing to improve the quality of care provided to Texans.
3. This bill ties Texans to yet another bureaucracy that will operate outside the control of the State of Texas, and will add yet another administrative agency that will be an eternal burden to Texas physicians. It is an impediment and not an improvement to the provision of care to Texans by their own physicians.
4. This bill is an abandonment of Texas' sovereignty. It subjugates the state, its physicians, and all citizens to a multi-state conglomerate headquartered outside Texas that would have too much power and is not at all necessary.
5. This agency would have extraordinary power and influence over the practice of medicine in Texas, while perpetuating for itself a quasi-independent existence beyond the control of this or any member state. There is no justification for Texas to join, other than to enrich the directors and controllers of yet another government agency, and at zero benefit to Texas.
6. This bill would require Texas to pay into this multi-state administrative conglomerate forever, and likely more and more as the years go by. This bill is fiscally irresponsible and is an abdication of the autonomy and independence that the state of Texas should rightly retain regarding the regulation of the practice of medicine here in Texas.

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Sincerely,

Darren Meyer MD

Shaun Weaver

Kingwood Direct MD

Kingwood, TX

It would be a major mistake for Texas to join the failing Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. Please reject HB 1616. The middle of a pandemic is the wrong time to add more red tape for physicians seeking to treat patients in Texas. The Compact is misleadingly promoted as increasing license portability. In reality it creates another layer of bureaucracy controlled by an out-of-state commission. There are reports of serious concerns about disorganization at the Compact Commission and 34% of the Commissioner seats were recently vacant. There is absolutely no need for the state to board this sinking ship. Texas can easily implement state specific measures that best fit the needs of Texans without binding the state to the Compact. For example HB 471 and HB 1780 are alternatives proposals that would craft a reciprocal license process without involving the top-heavy Compact Commission. Texans should not be stuck paying the bills every year in perpetuity for another unnecessary administrative agency. Thank you for considering this important request. Please vote NO on HB 1616.

PS Parker

self

GEORGETOWN, TX

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Stuart Crane

Self Psychiatrist

Alpine, TX

I am a rural psychiatrist in far west Texas. HB 1616 would further decrease access to care in rural Texas by tying Texas to the ABMS which has demonstrated financial improprieties without improving care. Thousands of physicians use an alternative board, NBPAS, used by hospitals and other institutions across the country. Portable licensure can be achieved through other bills without disenfranchisement of Texas physicians.

Mary Paley

self

Cedar Hill, TX

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Michael Bishop, Clinic Director

St. Alyssa Medical Center

Nacogdoches, TX

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Christine McGregor

Self

Wichita Falls, TX

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Robin Rothrock, Dr

Self/Texas Physician

Tiki Island, TX

You will need to select HB 1616 from the list of bills. Here is a statement you can copy and paste, and customize to your liking:

It would be a major mistake for Texas to join the failing Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. Please reject HB 1616. The middle of a pandemic is the wrong time to add more red tape for physicians seeking to treat patients in Texas. The Compact is misleadingly promoted as increasing license portability. In reality it creates another layer of bureaucracy controlled by an out-of-state commission. There are reports of serious concerns about disorganization at the Compact Commission and 34% of the Commissioner seats were recently vacant. There is absolutely no need for the state to board this sinking ship. Texas can easily implement state specific measures that best fit the needs of Texans without binding the state to the Compact. For example HB 471 and HB 1780 are alternatives proposals that would craft a reciprocal license process without involving the top-heavy Compact Commission. Texans should not be stuck paying the bills every year in perpetuity for another unnecessary administrative agency. Thank you for considering this important request. Please vote NO on HB 1616.

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Mary Taylor Doucet, Ms

Senior Citizens

Austin, TX

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You

Suzanne Lemoine

Self- Retired Teacher

San Antonio, TX

It would be a Major Mistake for Texas to join the failing Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. PLEASE REJECT HB 1616. As we are all dealing with the Covid Pandemic, it would be a mistake to add more red tape for Physicians seeking to treat patients in Texas. The Compact is misleadingly promoted as increasing License portability. In reality it only creates another layer of bureaucracy controlled by an out of state commission. Reports of serious concern regarding the disorganization at the Compact Commission and 34% of the Commissioner seats were recently vacant. TEXAS is a great State and is able to implement state specific measures that best fit the needs of TEXANS without binding us to the Compact. Alternative Proposals such as HB 471 and HB 1780 would better serve the purpose for reciprocal license process without involving the Compact Commission. Texans SHOULD NOT be stuck paying for bills that form an unnecessary administrative agency. Thank you for your continued support and for considering this most important request. PLEASE VOTE NO to HB 1616.