

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Health
For HB 2270

Compiled on: Monday, May 1, 2023 11:29 AM

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Hearing Date: May 1, 2023 8:00 AM

Clayton Travis
Texas Pediatric Society
Austin, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Texas Pediatric Society, a statewide professional nonprofit organization which represents more than 4,800 pediatricians, subspecialists, residents, and medical students across the state.

We deeply appreciate Representative Moody's efforts to increase access to healthcare for residents, fellows, and medical students as described in HB 2270, but would like to provide additional recommendations.

We believe that all patients should have a right to choose a healthcare provider that they are comfortable with. We would caution against language requiring schools to provide health examinations. This may discourage the learner from having an earnest discussion with their physician regarding their healthcare needs if they believe this information would be accessible by the school. There is also a concern that the provider may be a physician that they work with presently, have the potential to work under in the future, or that may otherwise be involved in decisions regarding performance evaluations, grading systems, and decisions to promote or graduate a student.

In addition, provided services may not be needed in many cases. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the accrediting body of all residencies and fellowships, requires programs to provide health insurance policies for all trainees. It is reasonable for this yearly exam to be accessed through their insurance coverage. That said, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) which accredits medical schools currently only recommends health insurance be made available to each student but does not require that they are covered.

The largest barrier to accessing care for many learners is limitation to when they can take the day off. In order to ensure the goals of this bill are met, we recommend language that indicates that the yearly health examination day should not be held to the same restrictions as other PTO days. Learners should be allowed one day around the same time each year, regardless of their schedule, to ensure healthcare needs are met. If learners know this day will be protected, they may be able to provide information regarding which day in advance of scheduling finalization, ensuring coverage is provided for that day.

This bill has the opportunity to ensure medical learners have access to the basic healthcare experiences they provide patients daily, with the goal of reducing preventable or late-to-diagnosis illnesses in healthcare providers, as well as reducing burnout.