



Sunset Bill for Texas Medical Board Coalition Opposition to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

New Interstate Bureaucracy Putting Federal DC District Court in Charge

June 17, 2017

The Honorable Dan Patrick
Texas Lieutenant Governor

The Honorable Texas Senators:

Paul Bettencourt, Brian Birdwell, Dr. Dawn Buckingham, Konni Burton, Dr. Donna Campbell, Brandon Creighton, Craig Estes, Sylvia Garcia, Bob Hall, Kelly Hancock, Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, Don Huffines, Joan Huffman, Bryan Hughes, Lois Kolkhorst, Eddie Lucio, Jr., José Menéndez, Borris Miles, Jane Nelson, Robert Nichols, Charles Perry, José Rodríguez, Dr. Charles Schwertner, Kel Seliger, Larry Taylor, Van Taylor, Carlos Uresti, Kirk Watson, Royce West, John Whitmire, and Judith Zaffirini

Dear Governor Patrick and Senators:

During the regular 85th Texas Legislative Session, the [Interstate Medical Licensure Compact](#) was filed along with the Sunset Legislation for the Texas Medical Board. It was also filed as a stand-alone bill to protect it in case it did not make it through the committee.

Although it is not currently part of the legislation filed for the Sunset TMB bill, it is possible that a move will be made to hastily add it as a floor amendment. This should be guarded against and fought.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the dangers inherent in this legislation and give you cause to oppose it and prevent it from finding its way into the current bill. ***Texas citizens do not need a new agency growing in wealth and power in Washington, DC, that will impact licensing and medical care.***



Texas Eagle Forum



The **Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**, if passed, would bind Texas to a new quasi-governmental interstate agency with authority to grant expedited medical licenses for physicians who wish to practice in multiple states.

The Compact grants licensing and rule-making authority to an appointed Interstate Medical Licensure Commission, which will have power to litigate against states from the US district court in DC.¹ Additionally, the Compact's disciplinary and investigative provisions are overly broad and may weaken physician due process rights.² The rules written by this new licensing commission will be binding on states as law and **supersede state law.**³

The financial burden to the member states is unknown and the rules, which are binding as statutory law, are still being written. The state must comply and enforce the commission's rules because the Compact includes a supremacy clause, superseding state law.⁴

The citizens of the state cannot vote commissioners out of office. The Interstate Commission will grow in wealth and power, enabling them to lobby for their agenda, *which may not align with the best interests of patients in the State of Texas.*

Proponents of this law insist that it is necessary to provide expedited multistate licenses for interstate telemedicine services. However, the states can simply reciprocate (endorse) the licenses of other states to expedite them—**there is no need for a whole new bureaucracy.** For example, there is a neurology group based in Denver that has already contracted with over 30 hospitals in Texas, providing telemedicine neurology services and using Texas licenses.

Current state medical boards are very capable of handling complaints arising from telemedicine and protecting the citizens of their respective states. The differences in regulation between states may create legal challenges to telemedicine services, especially in relation to issues such as assisted suicide. Texas could be importing some of the practices that are currently not legal here, because the commission would have the power to write rules permitting it, and the state's law would be nullified in those circumstances. **The Default and Enforcement section of the Compact establishes the district federal court in DC as the expected court where disputes will be settled.**⁵

If implemented, this Compact would bring Texas physicians and patients under the influence of an agency that will be given unlimited financial support and no accountability to Texas citizens. This should be considered unacceptable to our legislators. Please make sure the compact language is not added to the Texas Medical Board Sunset bill.



**PARKER COUNTY
CONSERVATIVES**



For questions, please contact Dr. Sheila Page, President of the Texas Association of American Physicians & Surgeons at 817-312-7303.

Sincerely,

Sheila Page, D.O., President, Texas Assoc. of American Physicians & Surgeons

Michael J. A. Robb, M.D., President, Assoc. of American Physicians & Surgeons

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America – We the People PAC

Cathie Adams, Board, National Eagle Forum; Past President, Texas Eagle Forum

Trayce Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum

Julie McCarty, President, NE Tarrant Tea Party

Bill Hussey, Founder & Past President, Llano TEA Party

Terri Hall, Founder/Director, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF)

Maggie Wright, founding member/past president, Texas Patriots TEA Party

Suzette Griffin, President, Clear Lake TEA Party

Tammy Blair, Republican Party County Chair, Cherokee County

Barb Stauffer, Steering Committee Member, Garland TEA Party

Pat Tibbs, President, Montgomery County Tea Party PAC

Adam Cahn, Austin Political Blogger, Cahnman's Musings

Mary & Dale Huls, Executive Committee members, Clear Lake TEA Party

Mike Olcott, Co-founder, Parker County Conservatives

Toni and Tom Fabry, Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party

Dana Hodges, Republican Party Precinct Chair, Orange County, Pct #9

Carol Doucet, a Founder, Conservative Society of Navarro County

Dr. Laura Pressley, Founder, Save Our Texas Vote

Larry Korkmas, President, TFIRE

Dr. Dwayne Collins, Founder, Edom TEA Party

Dean Wright, Co-founder/Director, New Revolution Now & Austin TEA Party

Sue Evenwel, State Republican Executive Committeewoman, SD 1

Josie Schoolcraft, President, Cherokee County Republican Club

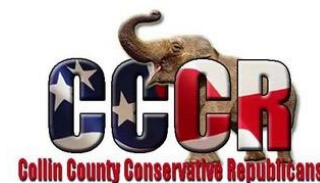
Naomi Narvaiz, State Republican Executive Committee, Senate District 21

Anna Bartosh, Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party

Ann Hettinger, Director, Center for Preservation of American Ideals

Carroll Maxwell, Past Pres./Board Member, Collin Co. Conservative Republicans

Stacy McMahan, Executive Director, East Texans for Liberty



Ruth York, President, TEA Party Patriots of Eastland County

Dr. Carole Hornsby Haynes, Educator, Education Policy Analyst

Bob Farris, Park Cities/Preston Hollow Leadership Forum

Sheri Edwards, Republican Brazoria County Precinct Chair

Ray Myers, Chairman, Kaufman County Tea Party

Matt Long, President, Fredericksburg TEA Party of Texas

Jim Stanley, Henderson County TEA Party

Ernie Clark, Past President, Grassroots America – We the People PAC

Allen Tharp, President, San Antonio TEA Party

Bill Bingham, Spokesman, Bryan/College Station TEA Party

Brian Newman, Leader, McKinney TEA Party

Dr. Ivette Lozano, Past President, Dallas Co. Republican Assembly 2015-2017

Mary Joe Cason, Organizer, Kaufman County TEA Party

Gary Gentz, Henderson County TEA Party

Brady Whatley, Flower Mound Area Republican Club

Donna Holland Wilcox, Chairman, Burnet County Republican Party

George Pangborn, President, Highland Lakes TEA Party

Lyleann McClellan Thee, President, San Angelo TEA Party

Teresa Beckmeyer, Chairman, Mitchell County Republican Party

Jim Speiran, GOTV Committee Chair, Grassroots America – We the People PAC;

Chair, Smith County GOP Precinct 75

Della Clark, Charter Member, Grassroots America – We the People PAC

Maria Martinez, Houston Inner Loop Grassroots

Jim Baxa, Physical Therapist, Lubbock

Rene Poe, Founder, Executive Committeewoman Hood County Tea Party

Elwood Smith, TEA Party Conservatives – Temple

Liz Theiss, Founder, Stop the Magnet

David & Rena French, Grassroots America – We the People PAC

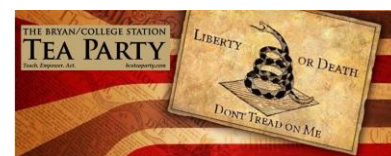
Deborah Bailey, San Angelo TEA Party

Janie Brittain, Steering Committee member, Garland TEA Party

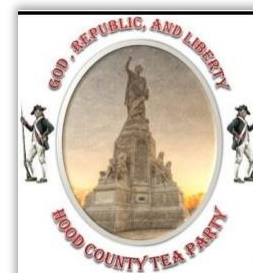
Rick Eisenbach, President, Grassroots America – We the People PAC

Laura Perryman, Vice-President, Grassroots America – We the People PAC

Susan Lucas, Denton County Conservative Coalition



Fredericksburg TEA Party



Organizational names are for identification purposes.

[Interstate Medical Licensure Compact](#)

¹ Section 15(c), Section 17(b), Section 18(h)

² Sections 9 and 10

³ Section 24(b) and (c)

⁴ Section 24(b)

⁵ Section 17(b) and Section 18(h)