

APRN Compact Bill IS a Scope Expansion Bill

House Bill 4404 is not what it seems. The legislation purports to simplify licensure and promote portability for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) by creating a new interstate compact – but what it really does is preempt Texas’ scope-of-practice laws by removing physician oversight of the health care team.

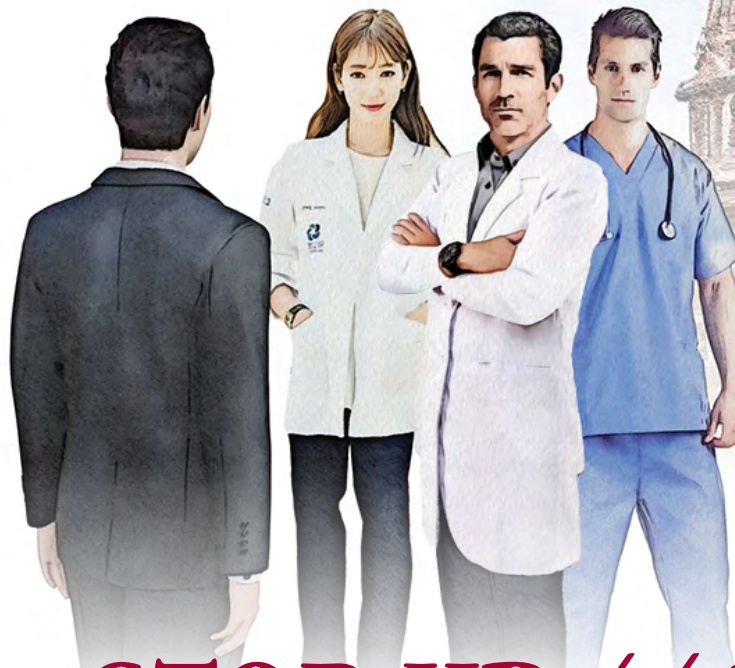
HB 4404 contains language that would supersede the Texas Legislature’s authority to determine how APRNs treat and prescribe for Texas patients. According to the bill’s language, the compact authorizes an APRN to obtain a multistate license to **“assume responsibility and accountability for patient care independent of any supervisory or collaborative relationship.”** The multistate license also includes “prescriptive authority for noncontrolled prescription drugs.”

These provisions would supersede existing state law requirements that APRNs practice and prescribe non-controlled substances under physician delegation and supervision. This means Texas nurses and out-of-state nurses who obtain the multistate license will be able to independently practice and prescribe non-controlled substances in Texas.

Nurses are a critical part of the health care team, but APRNs do not have the medical education and clinical training to take care of patients without physician oversight. A growing body of research shows health care outcomes suffer, and utilization and patient health care costs both increase in places where APRNs practice independently.^{1,2}

The Texas Legislature is already pursuing safe and sustainable access-to-care solutions that allow patients to have a high-standard of physician-led, team-based care regardless of where they live. These solutions include investing in physician education and recruitment and shoring up care in rural and underserved areas.

HB 4404 lowers the standard of care for Texas patients and is not a solution to access to care.



STOP HB 4404

TMA opposes this bill because it:

- Allows APRNs to practice independently without the education and training to do so, which puts patient safety at risk.
- For non-controlled substances, preempts Texas law requiring APRNs to practice and prescribe with physician oversight.
- Purports to expand access to care by offering a lower standard of care that has been shown to cost more, not less.



Physicians Caring for Texans

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

1. Hattiesburg Clinic, Hattiesburg, Mississippi. [Targeting Value-Based Care with Physician-Led Teams](#). *Journal of the Mississippi State Medical Association*. January 2022.

2. National Bureau of Economic Research. [The Productivity of Professions: Evidence from the Emergency Department](#). Working paper, October 2022.