



Physicians Caring for Texans

**House Committee on Public Health
Testimony by John Carlo, MD
Texas Medical Association
House Bill 454 by Rep. Reggie Smith
*April 3, 2023***

Honorable Chair Klick, Vice Chair Campos, and esteemed members:

My name is Dr. John Carlo, and I'm a public health and preventive medicine specialist from Dallas, representing the Texas Medical Association *in support* of House Bill 454. TMA applauds Representative Smith's efforts to improve physician continuing medical education (CME) regarding human trafficking.

As a reminder, this bill is a refile of HB 2758 from last session which unanimously passed this committee, passed the Texas House, and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee before dying on the Senate Local and Uncontested Calendar.

This bill cleans up current statute to ensure the required physician CME course is approved and monitored in the same manner as all other CME courses required by the state, through the Texas Medical Board (TMB). By transferring responsibility for course approval from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to TMB, the bill will align these requirements, expedite the review and approval of new courses, and provide consistent tracking of required course completion for physicians. TMB also will be able to monitor the need for any subject matter updates. Additionally, if only one course is available, the bill would not require physicians to repeatedly retake the identical course.

We thank you for taking these steps to improve the process that ultimately helps physicians support and possibly save their patients from modern-day slavery. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment, and I am happy to answer any questions.