



Physicians Caring for Texans

Senate Committee on Criminal Justice
Written Testimony on Senate Bill 36 by Sen. Judith Zaffirini
Texas Medical Association
March 30, 2021

Honorable Chair Whitmire and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the more than 55,000 physician and medical student members of the Texas Medical Association. Our testimony today speaks **on** Senate Bill 36 by Sen. Judith Zaffirini, as we want to share our concerns about the potential public health implications of the bill.

Despite hazing being against Texas state law, the practice continues across college campuses. We agree that individuals who engage in such activities must be held accountable.

We appreciate and thank the senator for agreeing to meet with us to alter language pertaining to physician reporting requirements in the bill, which could potentially violate patient-physician confidentiality. Physicians should not violate their patients' trust, especially while treating those who suffer the physical and emotional trauma that can follow hazing incidents.

TMA thanks you for your passion for ensuring the health and safety of our young adults, and we are ready to work with you on evidence-based solutions. Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Troy Alexander, director, TMA Legislative Affairs, at Troy.Alexander@texmed.org.