



Physicians Caring for Texans

**House Insurance Committee**  
**Testimony by Tony Aventa, MD, Texas Medical Association**  
**House Bill 4300 (Expedited Credentialing) by Rep. Ryan Guillen**  
*April 4, 2023*

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Thank you, Chairman Oliverson, Vice-Chair Johnson, and committee members, for allowing me to testify today. My name is Dr. Tony Aventa, and I am a physician practicing internal medicine here in Austin, testifying on behalf of myself and TMA and its more than 57,000 members in support of House Bill 4300.

Back in 2007, the legislature created a process for the expedited credentialing of physicians seeking in-network status with an insurer. The problem then was the lengthy amount of time the credentialing process took, even though nearly all physicians were ultimately approved. Without being credentialed, physicians practicing on their own or as part of a group had to bill patients at out-of-network rates. The balance achieved in the 2007 legislation was that applicant physicians could be approved automatically for in-network status, but if the insurer eventually denied them, the managed care plan could recover from the applicant an amount equal to the difference between payments for in-network benefits and out-of-network benefits.

Today, physician practices have the same issue when they hire nurse practitioners and physician assistants to work for their group. This problem is exacerbated by statewide workforce shortages that leave physician practices understaffed, much like other businesses across sectors.

House Bill 4300 creates a parallel expedited credentialing track for nurse practitioners and physician assistants who are hired by a medical group.

Again, thank you Mr. Chairman and committee members for allowing me to testify today in support of House Bill 4300. I appreciate your work, and I am happy to answer any questions.