

# PRACTICE CLIMATE

*How TMA's tort reform helps  
this new-to-Texas physician  
work better and smarter*



**Lokesh Goyal, DO**

*Family medicine*

**Corpus Christi**

*MEMBER SINCE 2022*

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When **Lokesh Goyal, DO**, moved from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Corpus Christi in 2020 during the early days of the pandemic, he was delighted to be closer to his family in Austin and to replace snowy winter commutes with an office near the beach.

**But as a newly licensed physician, what appealed to him most was the Lone Star State’s medical liability climate.**

### **ALL ROADS LEAD TO TEXAS**

While Dr. Goyal was looking for employment, many hospitals in the U.S. had enacted a hiring freeze. With few prospects to choose from, he considered staying in Cincinnati. But the opportunities were limited, and the financial compensation was much lower than what he could expect to earn in Texas.

The job offer in Corpus Christi was a godsend and met many of his criteria: a large hospital where he could teach residents and perform research. He also became a member of the hospital’s Physician Advisory Committee.

**“I felt like a lot of Texas hospitals, perhaps partly because of tort reforms, were able to open sooner versus hospitals in Ohio. Doctors were less afraid of getting sued. They studied the data coming out of the pandemic and felt comfortable opening sooner,” he said.**

After getting settled in Corpus Christi, Dr. Goyal joined TMA and the Nueces County Medical Society, where he became a member of the Physician Health and Rehabilitation Committee. He learned all about TMA from his fellow committee members.

**“They told me there’s a lot of CME opportunities I can take advantage of as a TMA member. I also learned TMA was heavily involved in the successful passage of tort reform,” he recalled.**

### **TORT REFORM TO THE RESCUE**

As a hospitalist, Dr. Goyal said he doesn’t have to “constantly look over” his shoulder, afraid of getting sued. Most of the time he can rule out unnecessary tests and procedures by doing a proper physical examination.

**“Thanks to tort reform, I can do a physical exam, document it, and give recommendations or prescribe medication. I can come to a quicker diagnosis and help drive down costs and reduce patients’ hospital stays,” he explained.**

Dr. Goyal credits tort reform with attracting physicians like him to the state.

**“I heard that before 2004 some doctors in Corpus Christi were getting sued left and right. They were looking at having to quit practicing because medical liability premiums were so high,” he said. “TMA and other organizations came together and brought about tort reform. It has attracted a lot of doctors. I like being part of an organization that played a major role in bringing tort reform to fruition.”**