



Texas Hospitals Oppose Senate Bill 11

Texas Hospitals Continue to Oppose Legislation That Interferes with Patients' Choices and Rights

As a major stakeholder representing more than 450 Texas hospitals, the Texas Hospital Association continues to oppose Senate Bill 11. THA was not invited to participate in the stakeholder negotiations that led to the development of the legislation as passed by the House State Affairs Committee.

If enacted, Senate Bill 11 by Sen. Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) and House sponsor Rep. Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) will restrict the use of in-hospital do-not-resuscitate orders by prescribing in statute when they are valid, create criminal penalties and mandate a new standard for medical appropriateness.

Texas hospitals have an obligation to honor the wishes of patients who have taken steps to articulate their wishes about their medical treatment. THA cannot support legislation that confounds a patient's wishes by statutorily dictating the validity of a medical order and could allow a surrogate to revoke a valid advance directive or DNR order.

While the bill was amended to include good faith liability protection and improved consent and notification language, THA does not support the provisions that:

- Create confusion with the dispute resolution process currently outlined in statute by allowing a patient to be transferred as a result of a disagreement with the attending physician, health care facility or hospital; and
- Ascribe criminal penalties to health care providers.

THA believes the premise of SB 11 could work to undermine patients' choices and adds unnecessary confusion and ambiguity within a process that should be a sacred and personal one.

No matter a patient's choices, Texas hospitals support practices that protect patients' rights and autonomy, including ensuring processes are in place as appropriate that allow consent and notification before a DNR order is placed in a patient's medical record.

For more information, contact:

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