



OPPOSE CSHB 1617 TO PROTECT PHYSICIANS AND THE PATIENTS THEY SERVE

- Decreases access to medical care for injured patients
- Holds physicians hostage to below-cost, government-set payment amounts
- Sets Texas on a race to the bottom for physician payments to the benefit of insurance companies



CSHB 1617 IS THE WRONG PRESCRIPTION TO CURE PERCEIVED EXCESSES IN PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATION.

CSHB 1617 forces physicians to make an impossible choice between being subject to lengthy and expensive litigation at the expense of patient care and accepting payment amounts set by the government that do not cover the cost of care.

CSHB 1617 will put in statute a standard of fair and reasonable payment tied to

workers' compensation rates, no matter how low those rates go. Physicians caring for Texans injured in accidents caused by someone else's negligence must accept these rates for the care they provide. If they choose not to accept these rates, they will be subject to baseless challenges to their treatment plans and charges, requiring them to spend precious time in court defending their practice when they are most needed in the operating and exam room.

CSHB 1617 has serious consequences for physicians and the patients who depend on them.

Physicians for Free Market Healthcare oppose CSHB 1617, because it:

- Limits the ability of Texas patients to get the medical care they need following a serious accident or injury caused by someone else's negligence.
- Holds physicians hostage to payment rates set by the government. Physicians who refuse to accept these below-cost payment amounts will be subject to time-consuming deposition, abusive legal discovery of private contracts, and challenges from insurance companies regarding the necessity of the medical care they provide.
- Establishes government-set payments as fair and reasonable and opens the door to insurance companies driving down physician payments even lower.
- Harms the independent practice of medicine by undermining the ability of physicians to negotiate fair payment for services.
- Makes the legal process more burdensome, costly, and time-consuming for physicians and their patients.
- Reduces the amount of time health care providers can spend caring for patients by requiring them to provide testimony (live at trial or through deposition) to defend the reasonableness and necessity of medical care.

PHYSICIAN TREATMENT FOR PATIENT SUFFERING MAJOR INJURIES



COMMERCIAL VEHICLE CRASHES

More than 39,000 crashes involving commercial motor vehicles occurred in Texas in 2019. This is up from 37,609 crashes in 2018 and 35,696 crashes in 2017. *Source: Texas Department of Transportation*



MOTOR VEHICLE INJURIES

Nearly 16,000 people sustained a serious injury in a motor vehicle traffic crash in 2019. This is up from about 15,000 people in 2018. *Source: Texas Department of Transportation*



FATAL WORKPLACE INJURIES

More than 600 Texans succumbed to injuries from occupational accidents in 2019. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics*



NONFATAL WORKPLACE INJURIES

2.1 Texas workers per 100 experienced a nonfatal workplace/occupational injury in 2019, up from 2.0 in 2018. *Source: Texas Department of Insurance*