

# Oppose HB 3794

## Independent Practice Does Not Expand Rural Access

**MYTH:** Unsupervised practice by nurse anesthetists leads to increased access to care in rural areas.

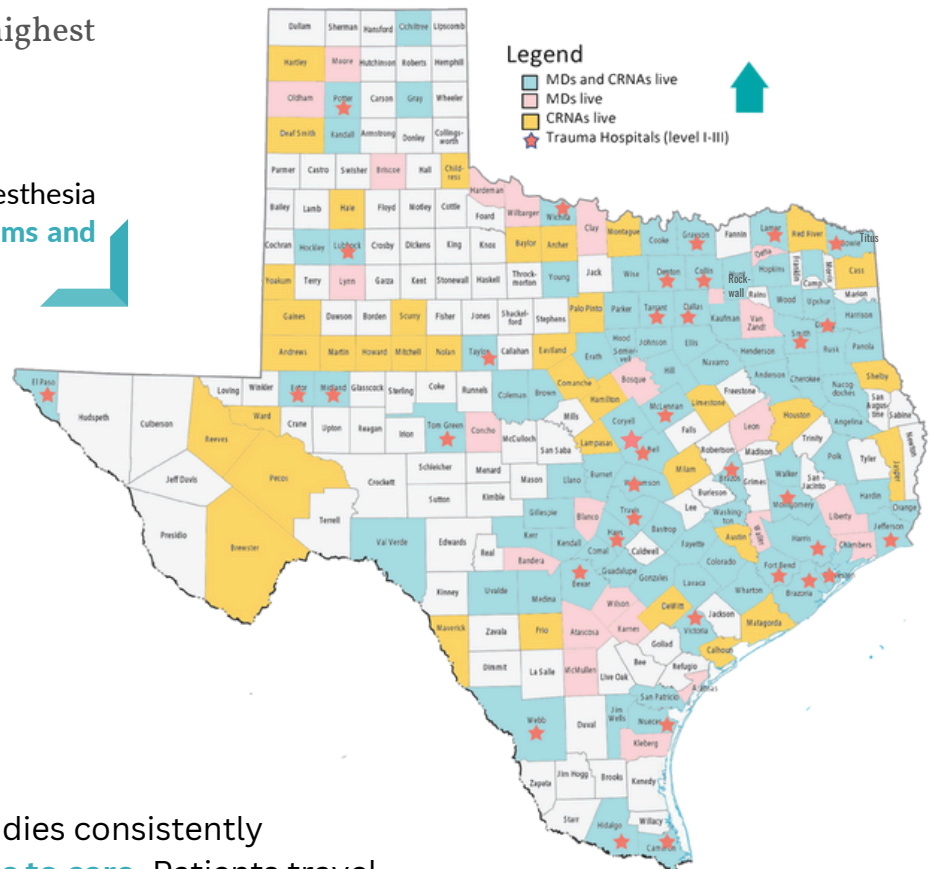
**FACT:** Certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) cannot practice in areas where facilities don't exist. An examination of county of residence data showed that both anesthesiologists and CRNAs are clustered around the 106 trauma hospitals (levels I-III) in Texas where anesthesia services are required. **Anesthesiologists reside in every county with a trauma hospital, where they work and care for patients.**<sup>1</sup>

According to the American Medical Association, Texas has the third highest number of anesthesiologists.<sup>2</sup>

The only way to increase access to anesthesia care is to **open up more operating rooms and anesthesiology residency programs.**

**Nurse practitioners delivering emergency care without physician oversight increased lengths of stay and preventable hospitalizations.**<sup>3</sup>

In states that have granted independent practice to CRNAs, studies consistently show **no increase in inpatient access to care.** Patients travel the same distance to receive care in states with independent practice as states where CRNAs practice under the delegation of a physician.<sup>4</sup>



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by Rep. Drew Darby

For more information regarding the care provided by anesthesiologists please visit

<https://tsa.org/advocacy/>

1. Texas Department of State Health Services. "Texas Trauma Facilities." Texas Department of State Health Services, 15 Oct. 2022.

2. "Health Workforce Mapper." American Medical Association, American Medical Association. 2023.

3. O'Reilly, Kevin B. "3-Year Study of NPS in the ED: Worse Outcomes, Higher Costs." American Medical Association, 10 Mar. 2023.

4. Schneider JE, Ohsfeldt R, Li P, Miller TR, Scheibling C. Assessing the impact of state "opt-out" policy on access to and costs of surgeries and other procedures requiring anesthesia services. Health Econ Rev. 2017 Dec;7(1):10.



TEXAS SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

# MEET THE ANESTHESIA CARE TEAM



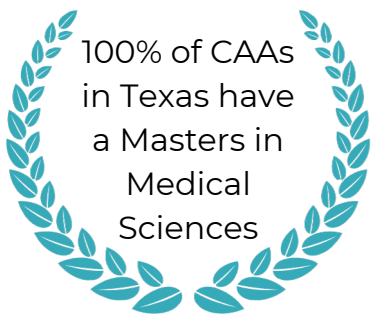
Anesthesiology is more than putting someone to sleep — it is the calculated use of dangerous, controlled substances used to put a patient's brain to sleep in order for an anesthesiologist to regulate brain, heart, lung and pain receptor functions during a medical procedure.

In Texas, physician anesthesiologists provide care either by personally administering the anesthetics and monitoring the patient's status or by leading an Anesthesia Care Team (ACT). The ACT is comprised of a Physician Anesthesiologist who directs and supervises anesthesia care by Certified Anesthesiology Assistants (CAA) and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA). While CAAs and CRNAs are qualified and valued members of the ACT, **there is no substitute for a physician.**

**PHYSICIAN ANESTHESIOLOGIST** Anesthesiologists are practicing physicians who specialize in anesthesia care, pain management and/or critical care medicine. This includes medically evaluating a patient prior to surgery, consulting with the surgical team, providing pain control and supporting vital life functions during surgery, supervising post-operative care and discharging a patient from the recovery unit. Physician anesthesiologists are the leaders of the ACT. Anesthesiologists undergo 12 to 14 years of medical education and complete 12,000 to 16,000 hours of clinical training specializing in anesthesia care and pain management.

**CAA** Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAAs) are qualified anesthesia providers who work under the delegation and supervision of a physician anesthesiologist. **CAAs receive 6 years of medical education and 2,600+ hours of clinical training.**

**CRNA** Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are nationally certified anesthesia providers required to work under the delegation and supervision of a physician in Texas. **CRNAs receive 4 to 6 years of education and 2,000 hours of training in patient care.**



**Anesthesiology is the practice of medicine.**

Neither a CAA nor a CRNA can practice anesthesiology independently of a physician.

**Education of Anesthesia Providers in Texas**

