TSGE Members:

Greetings!  After a winter of discontent, it is heartwarming to see spring flowers, better weather, and springing forward to a normal time zone!  We wish you all fortitude in the continued challenges of practicing during a global pandemic.  The Legislative Committee would like to update you on the happenings at the Capitol in Austin and how it might affect your practice.

The deadline for filing bills for the 87th Texas Legislative Session was March 12, 2021.  The Legislative Committee along with our lobbyist, Marshall Kenderdine, has been paying close attention and we have identified 4 bills of interest to our membership.  We will list the Committees in which these bills will be heard, the Members of those Committees, and their contact information.  We highly encourage CONSTITUENTS of these Members to contact them and let them know of your position on these bills.

Click the links below to find who represents you in the Texas Legislature.

House- <http://www.house.state.tx.us/>

Senate- <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/>

**TSGE BILLS OF INTEREST**

1) **Scope of Practice (HB 2029, SB 915**):  This bill would allow Nurses to become Doctors without going to medical school.  It grants prescriptive authority to Nurse Practitioners without having to be under the license of a supervising physician.  Of course, we are against this.  The entire force of the TMA is also against this.

*ACTION ITEM: HB 2029 was heard on 3/24 and was left pending in committee. It could be brought up for a vote at any time. Our focus should be on making the committee members aware that TSGE is strongly OPPOSED to this legislation.*

It is being heard in the **House Committee on Public Health** and is sponsored by its Chair, Stephanie Klick, R-Fort Worth/District 91: [Texas House of Representatives : E-Mail Rep. Klick, Stephanie](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=91&session=87)

Remaining Members of the **House Committee on Public Health** are:

Rep. R.D. “Bobby” Guerra, District 41: [Texas House of Representatives: E-Mail Rep. Guerra, Bobby](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=41&session=87)

Rep. Steve Allison, District 121: [Texas House of Representatives: E-Mail Rep. Allison, Steve](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=121&session=87)

Rep. Liz Campos, District 119: [Texas House of Representatives: E-Mail Rep. Campos, Elizabeth "Liz"](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=119&session=87)

Rep. Garnet Coleman, District 147: [Texas House of Representatives: E-Mail Rep. Coleman, Garnet F.](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=147&session=87)

Rep. Nicole Collier, District 95: [Texas House of Representatives: E-Mail Rep. Collier, Nicole](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=95&session=87)

Rep. Jacey Jetton, District 26: [Texas House of Representatives: E-Mail Rep. Jetton, Jacey](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=26&session=87)

Rep. Tom Oliverson, District 130: [Texas House of Representatives: E-Mail Rep. Oliverson, Tom](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=130&session=87)

Rep. Four Price, District 87: [Texas House of Representatives: E-Mail Rep. Price, Four](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=87&session=87)

Rep. Reggie Smith, District 62: [Texas House of Representatives: E-Mail Rep. Smith, Reggie](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=62&session=87)

Rep. Erin Zwiener, District 45: [Texas House of Representatives: Representative Zwiener, Erin](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/?district=45)

It is being heard in the **Senate Committee on Business and Commerce**, and it's being carried by its Chair, Kelly Hancock, District 9: [The Texas State Senate – E-mail Form](https://senate.texas.gov/memberform.php?auth=IUPbewM%2FVIuxQWllJplYGVzJBeDdagSIgPqeedO%2F6ps6XzpfOpiD%2FOPjwOzO4My9IJuRMQW98KC3m0XDlNWNVy910s%2BfKDp8Onw6NM%2BVIWibifdXmaRh1JFTww%3D%3D&lang=en)

2) **Health Plans to cover Colon Cancer Prevention at age 45 (HB 2250)**:  The American Cancer Society, the US Preventative Task Force, and soon the American College of Gastroenterology now recommend beginning average risk prevention strategies for colon cancer at age 45.  We, of course, support the effort to have this codified as a covered benefit in all insurance plans in the state of Texas.

This is being heard in the H**ouse Committee of Insurance** and is sponsored by Julie Johnson, D-Farmer's Branch, District 115: [Texas House of Representatives : E-Mail Rep. Johnson, Julie](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=115&session=87)

The remaining members of the **House Committee of Insurance** are:

Rep. Tom Oliverson, District 130: [Texas House of Representatives: E-Mail Rep. Oliverson, Tom](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=130&session=87)

Rep Hubert Vo, District 149: [Texas House of Representatives: E-Mail Rep. Vo, Hubert](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=149&session=87)

Rep Jessica Gonzalez, District 104: [Texas House of Representatives: E-Mail Rep. González, Jessica](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=104&session=87)

Rep. Lacey Hull, District 138: [Texas House of Representatives: E-Mail Rep. Hull, Lacey](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=138&session=87)

Repo Celia Israel, District 50: [Texas House of Representatives: E-Mail Rep. Israel, Celia](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=50&session=87)

Rep Mayes Middleton, District 23: [Texas House of Representatives: E-Mail Rep. Middleton, Mayes](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=23&session=87)

Rep. Dennis Paul, District 129: [Texas House of Representatives: Representative Paul, Dennis](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/?district=129)

Rep. Ramon Romero, District 90: [Texas House of Representatives: E-Mail Rep. Romero, Jr., Ramon](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=90&session=87)

Rep Scott Sanford, District 70: [Texas House of Representatives: Representative Sanford, Scott](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/?district=70)

There is no companion bill in the Senate.

*ACTION ITEM: Our focus should be on making the committee members aware that TSGE strongly SUPPORTS this legislation.*

3) **Prior authorization for Colon Cancer Screening (HB 410):**  This bill is also sponsored by Julie Johnson, D-Farmer's Branch and being heard in the H**ouse Committee of Insurance** (please see above for names and contact info).  This bill would remove any prior authorization requirements to perform colon cancer preventive strategies and we certainly support this.

*ACTION ITEM: HB 410 was heard on 3/9 and was left pending in committee. It could be brought up for a vote at any time. Our focus should be on making the committee members aware that TSGE strongly SUPPORTS this legislation.*

4) **Coverage for Colon Cancer Screening Strategies (SB 1028, HB 3588)**:  This bipartisan bill is a push from the American Cancer Society to have colon cancer prevention strategies covered by insurance.  Further, it ensures that if the initial strategy is a stool-based test, that the subsequent colonoscopy to follow up is also covered. During the TSGE Legislative Committee meeting, there was discussion about this methodology which also included FIT testing and Cologuard.  There were additional questions about the cost effectiveness of Cologuard and its ability to detect—Colorguard reports only 42% of high-risk pre-cancers. The committee worried if TSGE supported this bill, it, too, would be supporting an inferior colon cancer prevention strategy than that of colonoscopy.  After much discussion, it was concluded these strategies are already approved by the ACS and the USPTF and it was better to do something versus nothing at well; therefore, TSGE will support this bill.

This bill is being heard in the **Senate Committee on Business and Commerce** sponsored by Joan Huffman, R-Houston, District 17: [The Texas State Senate – E-mail Form](https://senate.texas.gov/memberform.php?auth=yy1ftQc0Wtie1TgIVl0TmdMw%2F7wrWkAnq79N0toKATY6XzpfOkySEJ6F7WhB7KF%2Bqy04b6io8ZTZBFJFLiM23bi3xq513HdTOnw6fDqsF3YD7RxnQE7EMzXkt%2BEu&lang=en) and Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, District 21: [The Texas State Senate – E-mail Form](https://senate.texas.gov/memberform.php?auth=HFVcscFFVQu4q9rNqIWAzYpKrU7G8MQNTSl1jC3GvpI6XzpfOvB1qvdLNBxr0r%2F48jLnrTQOngXwu%2By%2BOvG2fvt4%2BWEi6CEJOnw6fDpAFNpnjNL2ag5Vp5ey5MUq&lang=en)

The remaining Members of the **Senate Committee on Business and Commerce** are:

Sen. Kelly Hancock, District 9: [The Texas State Senate – E-mail Form](https://senate.texas.gov/memberform.php?auth=IUPbewM%2FVIuxQWllJplYGVzJBeDdagSIgPqeedO%2F6ps6XzpfOpiD%2FOPjwOzO4My9IJuRMQW98KC3m0XDlNWNVy910s%2BfKDp8Onw6NM%2BVIWibifdXmaRh1JFTww%3D%3D&lang=en)

Sen. Robert Nichols, District 3: [The Texas State Senate – E-mail Form](https://senate.texas.gov/memberform.php?auth=5Hc2d1UQwcTyzYlBvSjpoAjDCm3CTmKgnX54S1%2FQatY6XzpfOsZvcm5OH10X%2FSOGRQjG7YDAK1kglbUgWtnnUG5JJusFQ6A6fDp8Oi%2BbRRfgtPDkmJQ4CAmlhKI%3D&lang=en)

San. Donna Campbell, District 25: [The Texas State Senate – E-mail Form](https://senate.texas.gov/memberform.php?auth=KR5ZMB%2F2VIvJsxAJoem8rwkhW28IWHNKCIxH2BRWWGE6XzpfOlCJafxffm3CmeRvuxxXkyho4%2FowYEQ2jXYFPs8fMRGxjIcZOnw6fDpj%2BLF1k%2FIAXl53mMRrRlPW&lang=en)

San. Brandon Creighton, District 4: [The Texas State Senate – E-mail Form](https://senate.texas.gov/memberform.php?auth=6%2F4Rj4YxUv7znEq0BrYzmqLApFep%2BGmVluXFcKlqoqY6XzpfOvZj%2FrH3ClEbCvpwCCCdf40QyaaO4bIADz9TJHJDNevsdTp8Onw6jRBKsqukrP6FHIwxOXBNgg%3D%3D&lang=en)

Sen. Nathan Johnson, District 16: [The Texas State Senate – E-mail Form](https://senate.texas.gov/memberform.php?auth=J6S1LYvt7fEPTwVeFv5wjr03hONzyca8rygKUw3OV%2Fo6XzpfOotPo8Cdr5vvNzf6PFrhFjkuVUUfssnFKA8MR6ze0PwOLoW7Onw6fDpKPJG76qjIfSnnRKraZ%2BPu&lang=en)

Sen. Jose Menendez, District 26: [The Texas State Senate – E-mail Form](https://senate.texas.gov/memberform.php?auth=CIjWyYluq45J2L1xOewcOoGEk9GbMZD4Dsg0x7CXNh06XzpfOrBR2fDgp20GosAiFEP6jwUq1L%2FVY4OfZYGu0WbMEWfy%2BeKbOnw6fDqGgGdddAZz1LtM209HotSw&lang=en)

San. Angela Paxton, District 8: [The Texas State Senate – E-mail Form](https://senate.texas.gov/memberform.php?auth=SANikdwDoHBDmlBlRaJBgo%2BPUlD36InD5S5DUDZdlas6XzpfOo2JMhIiiyLDG1lhQQeugC6kmmMa2INreMEAA53nb0%2Ft2yQ6fDp8Oslncy%2B%2FEhh9Kg8lMp3ySoQ%3D&lang=en)

Sen. Charles Schwertner, District 5: [The Texas State Senate – E-mail Form](https://senate.texas.gov/memberform.php?auth=aXZofJVKPSz16yJdlKukLsWJ91OjyH5ugPyZJejUpcw6XzpfOgvRylz2K4B5AQSccbl3n8IR25JJneu34qXupXWSVG2R4Dp8Onw6lD9zepIyqtdxP17AMfXxWg%3D%3D&lang=en)

Sen. John Whitmire, District 15: [The Texas State Senate – E-mail Form](https://senate.texas.gov/memberform.php?auth=uMlDTf1ohYgOfUlf8e%2BXEvFbSV4HWqlfhpEYUAMQiBA6XzpfOg8tOiodm6kVI5wCEOiaLaJd4U7t0yByH0NtoeYOse%2BvMAITOnw6fDrAhzJNjFR5xIKTpG8dGsNM&lang=en)

This is again being heard in the **House Committee on Insurance** sponsored by John Smithee, R-Amarillo, District 86: [Texas House of Representatives : E-Mail Rep. Smithee, John T.](https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/email/?district=86&session=87)

The names and contact information is as above.

*ACTION ITEM: Our focus should be on making the committee members aware that TSGE SUPPORTS this legislation.*

Again, if you are a constituent of any of the Members of the committees mentioned above, we urge you to contact them and register your position.  Our elected officials are influenced by the opinions of their constituents.  We will circle back after the end of the Session to let you know the fate of these bills.