



Texas  
Orthopaedic  
Association



Texas Society of Sports Medicine

*“Treating athletes on the road is a fact of life for sports medicine professionals and they should be able to do so without facing unnecessary legal risks”*

*Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota*



## Team Physicians Protect Athletes: Now They Need the Texas Legislature’s Help

Physicians travel with high school, college, and professional athletic teams across state lines on a regular basis. However, a physician who is typically licensed by his or her home state, may not be licensed in the state in which his or her athletic team is visiting. An increasing number of states and the federal government are attempting to offer solutions.

Congressional legislation (H.R. 302) is attempting to solve the problem regarding medical liability insurance at the federal level. The federal bills

would indicate that health care services provided by a covered sports medicine professional to an athlete, athletic team, or staff member of an athlete or athletic team in a secondary state outside the state of licensure would be covered by the professional’s medical liability insurance provider.

However, the federal legislation does not address the key issue that must be solved by state legislatures - waiving state physician requirements for out-of-state team physicians when they are providing care at an athletic event.

### How the 85th Texas Legislature Can Help Team Physicians

Federal legislation only addresses liability insurance and does not address out-of-state licensure laws for team physicians who travel across state lines with their athletic teams. Therefore, it is critical for state lawmakers to provide relief. Many other states – including California, Louisiana, Florida, and Illinois – have already done so.

TOA and TSSM strongly support HB 986 and SB 849, which would protect team physicians when they travel with their teams to Texas. The measure would protect out-of-state team physicians when they travel to Texas to staff teams and athletic competitions.

Under the legislation, out-of-state team physicians who are actively licensed in another state or country would be exempt from Texas licensure if the follow-

ing conditions are met:

- The physician has a written agreement with a sports team to provide general or emergency care to the team members, coaching staff, and families traveling with the team for a specific sporting event to take place in the state.
- The exemption shall remain in force while the team is traveling and up to 10 days following the event. If an extension is necessary, the Texas Medical Board may grant extensions.
- Care is limited to the team members, coaching staff, and families traveling with the team for a specific sporting event scheduled to take place in a secondary state.

Texas Orthopaedic Association  
401 West 15th Street, Suite 820  
Austin, Texas 78701

[www.toa.org](http://www.toa.org)