

May 31, 2019

The Honorable Greg Abbott

Re: Support for HB 3284

Dear Governor Abbott:

I am writing on behalf of the Texas Orthopaedic Association (TOA) to ask for your signature on HB 3284. TOA is a volunteer organization of over 1,400 Texas orthopaedic surgeons that was founded in 1936 to ensure outstanding musculoskeletal care for Texans.

TOA believes that the Texas State Board of Pharmacy's (TSBP) prescription monitoring program (PMP) is an important tool for physicians to use to address "doctor shopping," which is the practice of individuals who go from physician to physician for the inappropriate acquisition of prescription drugs.

There are workflow concerns related to a manual check of the PMP. Fortunately, technology exists that will allow physicians to check the PMP in a seamless manner through a button on a patient's electronic health record (EHR). Fortunately, the 86th Legislature appropriated funds for the TSBP to acquire the licenses for physicians to integrate the PMP into their EHRs. However, the licenses may not be prepared for the September 1, 2019, start date that was mandated by the 85th Legislature. As a result, HB 3284 from the 86th Legislature delayed the PMP mandate until March 1, 2020 to ensure that all EHRs are ready to go with the PMP integration.

In addition, HB 3284 contains an important provision that will create an advisory committee within the TSBP made up of stakeholders to provide recommendations for the PMP's operation. All of the PMP's stakeholders – including physicians, pharmacists, and EHR vendors – supported the creation of the advisory committee found in HB 3284.

Thank you in advance for considering this important legislation. TOA's executive director, Bobby Hillert, can be reached at 214.728.7672 or Bobby@toa.org.

Sincerely,



Adam Bruggeman, MD
President
Texas Orthopaedic Association