

**Capitol Office:**  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711  
Phone: (512) 463-0102  
Fax: (512) 463-7202

**Canton Office:**  
17585 State Highway 19, Suite 200  
Canton, Texas 75103  
Phone: (903) 567-0531  
Fax: (903) 567-0533



**SENATOR BOB HALL**  
DISTRICT 2

**Rockwall Office:**  
Alliance Building #2  
6537 Horizon Road, Suite B-1  
Rockwall, Texas 75032  
Phone: (972) 722-3131  
Fax: (972) 722-3132

**Greenville Office:**  
2816 Lee Street, Suite A  
Greenville, Texas 75401  
Phone: (903) 454-2880  
Fax: (903) 454-2885

August 11, 2021

Sherif Z. Zaafran, MD  
President, Texas Medical Board  
333 Guadalupe, Tower 3, Suite 610  
Austin, TX 78768

RE: Ensuring Texas Doctors will have the Freedom to Express Concerns about the COVID-19 Vaccines

Dear Dr. Zaafran,

On July 29th, The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), issued an alarming statement, promoting an unprecedented level of draconian restriction on physicians. FSMB, a nonprofit organization which represents state medical boards, stated the following in a news release:

"Physicians who generate and spread COVID-19 vaccine misinformation or disinformation are risking disciplinary action by state medical boards, including the suspension or revocation of their medical license."

The statement continued by saying that doctors, due to their exceptionally high levels of knowledge and training, wield a great deal of influence in our society, and that spreading inaccurate COVID-19 vaccine information "erodes public trust in the medical profession and puts all patients at risk." Unfortunately, in our politically charged environment, "inaccurate information" now encompasses any information not totally aligned with the dictates of government bureaucrats.

Texas physicians need assurance from the Texas Medical Board that they will not be punished for doing their job. They must have the freedom to report and share information as they see fit, without politically motivated restraints especially if they have witnessed what they believe to be adverse reactions to the COVID-19 vaccines in their own patients. There is simply no good reason for a physician who has legitimate concerns or a differing opinion from government bureaucrats on a COVID-19 vaccine to be penalized. The physicians I have encountered who have reservations about the vaccines are genuinely looking out for the best interest of both their patients and overall public health.

In fact, I would even go so far as to hope you would agree that it is a doctor's responsible duty to voice their reservations about any medical treatment or procedure which they believe could be detrimental to the health of his or her patients and to promote those therapeutic procedures that best serve their patients.



**Senate Committees:**  
Administration *Chair*, Veteran Affairs & Border Security *Vice-Chair*  
Education, Health & Human Services, Local Government, State Affairs



I am absolutely confident that Texas physicians and hopefully the Texas Medical Board want what is best for the health of Texans. Therefore, I am requesting that the Board clarify that Texas doctors are not in danger of losing their licenses or being penalized in another way for simply sharing their concerns about the COVID-19 vaccines, or any other vaccine.

In addition, I ask that the Texas Medical Board ensure that no provisions in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact passed by the Texas Legislature this year will be misconstrued to punish doctors for expressing their concerns about the COVID-19 vaccines.

Please act in the best interest of Texas patients and their physicians, by not punishing them for doing their job. I request a response detailing how this will be handled by the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Hall".

Senator Bob Hall