



ACTION ALERT – PLEASE READ!

The Tennessee Medical Association has unveiled a White Paper on its “Team-Based Care Model” and CRNAs need to know what TMA has planned and would have others believe about your ability as an APRN to deliver quality healthcare in Tennessee. The White Paper published by TMA is designed to provide support for legislation its pushing for physician-led care teams. This team-based care model was introduced by TMA in 2015 as the “TN Health Improvement Act” in response to TMA filing its Full Practice Authority legislation. The Tennessee Medical Association’s counter-proposal, SB 521 by Senator Joey Hensley/HB 861 by Representative Mike Harrison, is a physician-led care team model with physicians serving as the “quarterback” for all complex medical conditions, leaving only “uncomplicated” services to “mid-level providers”. According to TMA’s White Paper:

Tennessee’s rules stipulate that physicians, because of their education, training and experience, serve in a supervisory role for other practitioners, such as physician assistants (PAs) and advance practice registered nurses (APRN including nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, clinical nurse specialists and certified nurse anesthetists). These **mid-level providers are licensed to provide a limited scope of medical services compared to a physician**, but the shortage of primary care doctors, among other factors, has generated an increasing demand from **patients who enjoy the convenience of having a PA or APRN attend to their uncomplicated medical needs.**

TMA’s White Paper also discusses access to safe, quality healthcare, asserting that “Without the education, training and experience in treating complex and serious medical conditions a relationship with a physician would bring to bear, there might not be a physician available for consultation and APRNs would be left to send patients to the nearest hospital emergency department for treatment.” TMA goes on to say that **“Patients are simply more comfortable and confident having a physician either directly involved in their care, or leading the team, even for minor medical needs.”**

SB 521/HB 861 states “the practice of professional nursing does not include acts of medical diagnosis and treatment or the development of a medical plan of care and therapeutics for a patient, including, but not limited to, the administration, dispensing, or prescribing of pharmaceuticals, except to the extent those acts are expressly delegated by a patient care team physician to an advanced practice registered nurse, as

authorized by §§ 63-7-123 and 63-7-207.” The bill defines “complex medical condition” and establishes that “if a decision by the board of medical examiners or the board of osteopathic examination as to who or what constitutes a complex medical condition contradicts any decision made by the board of nursing concerning a similar complex medical condition, **the decision and rules of the board of medical examiners or the board of osteopathic examination shall supersede the decision made by the board of nursing.**”

TMA bill SB 521/HB 861 as introduced:

<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/109/Bill/SB0521.pdf>.

Current Status of SB 521/HB 861 – Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.
Assigned to House Health Subcommittee.

TMA’s Blueprint for Team-based Healthcare in Tennessee White Paper:

<http://www.tnmed.org/Documents/A%20BLUEPRINT%20FOR%20TEAM-BASED%20HEALTHCARE%20IN%20TENNESSEE.pdf>

TANA POSITION – TANA OPPOSES SB 521/HB 861. Despite it’s name, this TMA proposal is not about improving access to safe, quality care for patients in Tennessee, it is an attempt to restrict the practice of APRNs in Tennessee. TANA opposes any effort to restrict CRNA practice and any attempt to negatively impact the Board of Nursing’s ability to regulate its licensees.

TMA’s Board of Directors will meet later this month to decide if it should move forward with SB 521/HB861 in the 2016 legislative session, but we must act now to voice TANA’s opposition to SB 521/HB 861!

WHAT ARE WE ASKING TANA MEMBERS TO DO???

1. Read the TMA White Paper as well as SB 521/HB 861 to educate yourself on what TMA’s proposal would mean for your practice.
2. Share this information with other CRNAs, APRNs and healthcare colleagues.
3. Contact your legislator and let them know that you are opposed to SB 521/HB 861.