

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Appropriations - S/C on Articles VI, VII, & VIII

For Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 8:00 AM

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COMMENTS FOR Texas Medical Board

Mary Bowden, MD
Self - Physician
Houston, TX

At the Senate meeting two weeks ago, executive director Brint Carlton said TMB needs more money to pay their lawyers more. Amy Swanholm, their lead attorney, has enjoyed a 30% pay raise over the past 4 years. She appears to be still working from home, as during the week of deposing my witnesses, her cat repeatedly ran across her desk. At the Senate meeting, Carlton boasted about their high revenue while leaving out that medical license fees in Texas are the highest in the nation. I have looked at their financial statements, and there are red flags that need to be investigated. For example, they paid \$8,402,207.10 to consultants in 2024. I asked them for further breakdown of this item as well as some others, and their response was "We do not make or retain further breakdowns of those items as part of our operations." They have not had an independent financial audit in at least ten years.

They also claim not to be spending money investigating doctors over ivermectin, yet their case against me is proof they do. The complaint letter I received on Nov 1, 2021 specifically states ivermectin. I've spent 3 1/2 years and \$259,000 in legal fees trying to clear my name. I received two other complaints that required me to hire a lawyer - both of those were about ivermectin. Going after doctors for prescribing a medication safer than tylenol is not a valuable use of taxpayer funds.

Kathleen Parsons
Self
Houston, TX

I have been following along with the persecution of Dr. Mary Talley Bowden by the Texas Medical Board very closely and I am horrified. The whole concept of this Board needs to be reformed and I believe a good first step would be to cut the funding significantly to send a message. 1. Why are complaints from out of state and/or people who have no relationship to a patient accepted as valid? This should stop, especially in this age of politically motivated lawfare. 2. TMB has spent so much money on lawyers that seem totally unnecessary if they had a valid concern. If there were a really bad/dangerous doctor that needed to be stopped, the record would speak for itself. There would be testimony from the injured party and/or their immediate family and a second opinion and no need to hire numerous expert witnesses and spend huge amounts of money FIGHTING TRANSPARENCY. 3. It is clear to me the board needs to be restructured. Why not cut the funding and term limit the board? 4. There should be diversity of medial philosophy on the board, with representation from independent doctors who are not aligned with so-called consensus (which is truly anti-science since science is never settled) This would encourage innovation, and a more real world, community and actual treatment based success in outcomes, low cost repurposed innovation that actually works. <we are actually seeing this in the real world as the "science consensus" has lost credibility, trust and accessibility - and the board should reflect this reality.

David Taylor
Self
Rockdale, TX

No spending increases for any reason please

Daniel Huckabee
self; consultant
Katy, TX

I think an independent audit of the Medical Board is important as it would clear up any questions about where money was spent and how. Any issues revealed could then be addressed as needed. Think of it as a tool similar but on a more expanded level to Musk's asking his Twitter employees, and now federal ones, what they accomplished the week before that helped the company or the federal service to tax payers. I've done these for years for different employers/clients and it gives them a chance to more fully understand what I'm doing plus share with them issues/opportunities.

Esther N Cooper, Dr
Self psychiatric physician
Navasota, TX

The TMB has pursued a physician inappropriately for her medical treatment with the highly safe and effective Nobel-prize winning medication Ivermectin which has been denigrated only to benefit Big Pharma yet was taken by 1/2 of Congress per one prescribing physician report. Their abysmal treatment of her qualifies as harassment. Please do not give their attorneys a raise but instead restore her funds spent on legal fees dealing with them. The unbiased studies now escaping censorship at last prove Big Pharma has an undue influence over medicine, medical boards, and medical associations, with a huge negative impact on health. I ask you not to encourage persecution of Texas physicians who are patient centered and well read on the best in health practices. Dr Bowden has saved thousands of lives by her expertise and care. Increasing the attorney salaries until they operate for good is a travesty. I don't want my licensing fees, highest in the US, to be spent on such causes.

THEODORE CROY
self/ Physical Therapist/ Professor
China Spring, TX

The actions taken regarding C19 shots and the belligerence toward Dr. Mary Talley Bowden by the TMB, whilst simultaneously facilitating gender care, indicate that the TMB has agendas that do not align with evidence based medicine, physician autonomy, nor professional practice--and also do not consistently align with the views of the average Texan; who oppose abortion. As I understand it, the TMB employed a director who was employed by Planned Parenthood. The TMB's actions do not favor transparency, nor even average medicine, let alone exemplary medicine in the state. For these reasons, it is my opinion that the TMB undergo investigation, should not receive additional funding as proposed, and be officially reprimanded.

Gina Davis
Self
Spring, TX

TMB is a partisan board should be disbanded. Going after a doctor treating Covid is wrong and dangerous. Disband TMB do not fund them or increase their funding.

Richard Boyd
self
LA WARD, TX

Tired of seeing the Republicans cave on too much. When is the state going to do what's right? Dr Mary Boxden is my Doctor and treated me for Covid and I had no problems. But what are you people doing? Same people that attached our attorney general are running the legislature. We need DOGE to investigate our state. Spent how much on Consultant Services. People need to go to jail to straighten out eh mess.

Cynthia Hicks
Self
Nederland, TX

Please do not appropriate more taxpayer money for raises for members of the Texas Medical Board.

Lisa Duran
Self
Lago Vista, TX

Please oppose any budget increase for the Texas medical board. They have done next to nothing to help consumers and currently charge the highest licensing rate in the country. Clean house now.

Katrina Muysenberg
Self
The Colony, TX

Please fire and prosecute the members of this board for punishing doctors who gave ivermectin, instead of rewarding their behavior with increased funding so that their lawyers can continue to harass and financially destroy good doctors, like Dr. Bowden. Tired of TX operating like a banana republic.
