

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-R-195

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSE BILL 2038 (THE “DOCTOR ACT”), AND URGING THE TEXAS MEDICAL BOARD TO ENSURE THAT THE FINAL RULES ENABLE MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION BY HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS (HPSAs) AND MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS (MUAs), SUCH AS LAREDO AND WEBB COUNTY.

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 2038, the “DOCTOR Act,” in 2025 to expand access to healthcare by creating new, supervised licensure pathways for qualified foreign-trained physicians and recent medical graduates; and

WHEREAS, this legislation presents a forward-thinking approach to alleviating the healthcare workforce shortages facing many Texas communities, especially those designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) and Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs); and

WHEREAS, Webb County continues to face a severe shortfall in medical provider availability, maintaining a primary care provider-to-patient ratio of approximately 1:3,290 as of 2023—more than three times the national benchmark; and

WHEREAS, this access gap is further exacerbated by a rapidly aging physician workforce, with a significant portion of providers at or nearing retirement age, placing the region at heightened risk of a deepening crisis in both primary and specialty care services; and

WHEREAS, this resolution aligns with City Council Item 25-C-107, which called for discussion and possible action regarding the integration of House Bill 2038 through the Laredo Public Health Department to address the City’s medically underserved challenges attributed to physician shortages, and any matters related thereto; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo recognizes that the successful implementation of H.B. 2038 is critical to addressing the urgent healthcare needs of border communities like ours and that targeted rulemaking by the Texas Medical Board is essential to achieving the bill’s full potential; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Laredo, Texas, support the Texas Medical Board’s efforts to implement H.B. 2038 and respectfully urge the Board to ensure that final rules include measures that promote meaningful participation by underserved communities;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS THAT:

SECTION 1. The City of Laredo strongly supports the implementation of House Bill 2038 (the “DOCTOR Act”) and commends the Texas Legislature and the Texas Medical Board for advancing an innovative solution to the state’s healthcare access challenges.

SECTION 2. The City urges the Texas Medical Board to ensure that final rulemaking reflects the following priorities to enable maximum participation by HPSAs and MUAs:

- Flexibility in site affiliation criteria so that clinics in underserved areas may qualify through regional partnerships or through teaching site designations with accredited residency programs.
- Recognition of local governments and public health departments as eligible host employers or supervising entities, especially in regions without large academic medical centers.
- Reduction of administrative burdens for eligible provisional licensees and sponsoring physicians operating in rural and underserved communities.
- Inclusion of provisions promoting equitable compensation and malpractice guidance to support long-term sustainability for both provisional licensees and their employers.

SECTION 3. The City of Laredo stands ready to assist in the implementation of this law and is committed to serving as a model for the successful integration of qualified physicians into medically underserved communities.

SECTION 4. A copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Texas Medical Board, the Office of the Governor, the Texas House and Senate Committees on Public Health, and the Texas Congressional delegation.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2025.

DR. VICTOR D. TREVINO
MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARIO I. MALDONADO JR.
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM
DOANH T. NGUYEN, CITY ATTORNEY