

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STEVE TOTH

March 11, 2025

Darrel Spinks
Executive Director
Behavioral Health Executive Council
1801 Congress Ave, Ste. 7300
Austin, TX 78701

Delivered via Electronic Mail

Subject: Request for Clarification on SB 14 Regarding the Definition of "Health Care Provider"

Dear Mr. Spinks,

I am formally requesting that your agency seek immediate clarification regarding the definition of "health care provider" as stated in Section 2 of Senate Bill 14, passed during the 88th Legislative Session.

As outlined in SB 14, "health care provider" is defined as the following:

(2) 'Health care provider' means a person *other than a physician* who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by this state's laws to provide or render health care or to dispense or prescribe a prescription drug in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.

It has recently come to my attention that there is uncertainty of whether "health care provider" as defined by this statute applies to licensed mental health professionals.

The intent of the legislation must be upheld, and without explicit guidance, there remains a risk of misinterpretation among mental health professionals who may not recognize their obligations under this law.

Therefore, I urge BHEC to take immediate action in seeking clarification on this matter to ensure full compliance with Texas law.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Toth".

Rep. Steve Toth, House District 15



DISTRICT 15

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