

Posted at 6:15 PM on Friday, Dec. 3, 2010 – Dallas Morning News  
Letter to the Editor

[Do what's best for patients](#)

Re: "Stop Nursing Grudges -- Practitioners' law deserves review despite objections," Monday Editorials.  
This editorial accurately calls for the Texas Legislature's full hearing and attention to review obsolete laws that restrict Texas NPs from practicing to their full scope of education and skills.

For nearly half a century, NPs have been performing many of the same functions as physicians, including prescribing medication and performing physical exams, and have become the health care provider of choice for millions of Americans. In fact, research shows that NPs provide high-quality primary care with outcomes that are similar to, or even better than, primary care physicians.

It is ironic that Texas' legislators and visitors who pass through the halls of the Capitol in Austin each year can have their health care needs met by Tim Flynn, an NP entrusted by the state of Texas to provide patient care to all elected officials -- even the president when he visits -- but he could not provide care for refugees taking shelter in Austin after devastating hurricanes hit the state because of the state's restrictive regulations on NP practice.

Modernizing and simplifying Texas law is a critical step in solving the health care crisis and ensuring all Texans receive the efficient and effective health care they deserve.

*Timothy Knettler, chief executive officer, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, Austin*