

[A health care solution](#)

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Letter to the Editor

[Re: "Stop Nursing Grudges -- Practitioners' law deserves review despite objections." Monday Editorials.](#)

As advocates for older Texans, [AARP](#) Texas believes that nurse practitioners can help provide the care so needed by the more than 4.5 million Texans over age 50. As the editorial so aptly pointed out, nearly one in 10 Texas counties have no primary health providers. Rural areas with aging populations are most affected by this shortage. These older folks often have an increased need for access to health care but are unable to get it without a long trip to the nearest metro area. Nurse practitioners can be part of the solution.

As documented in the Journal of the [American Medical Association](#), nurse practitioners provide high-quality care that satisfies patients just as much as that from doctors. They have advanced educations and are fully qualified to function independently from physicians, a quality that could come in handy given our doctor shortage. In rural areas, nurse practitioners can help provide more continuous care, supplementing trips to see specialists and encouraging preventive care.

It's time for the Texas Legislature to step up and care for Texans by allowing nurse practitioners to care for their patients the way they were trained to.

Bob Jackson,

AARP Texas state director, Austin