



TENNESSEE PRIMARY CARE
ASSOCIATION

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NEWS RELEASE
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New Law Makes Volunteering Easier for Health Care Providers in Tennessee

Tennessee – Public Chapter 0581, passed by the General Assembly this past spring, allows health care volunteers to be covered by a nonprofit clinic’s liability insurance. The legislation had support in both houses from both sides of the aisle. It was sponsored by Senators Mark Norris, Beverly Marrero, Doug Overbey, Jim Tracy, Rusty Crowe, Steve Southerland, Paul Stanley, Jamie Woodson, Tim Burchett, Randy McNally, Ken Yager, Bo Watson, and Charlotte Burks in the Senate and by Representatives John Deberry, Karen Camper, G.A. Hardaway, and Joanne Favors in the House of Representatives.

“This important legislation makes it easier to utilize the services of volunteer health care providers, including physicians and dentists, in order to provide our patients with the best possible care,” said Burt Waller, CEO of Christ Community Health services in Memphis. “I’d like to thank the Senators and Representatives who sponsored and voted for this bill, showing their support for health centers.”

Nonprofit health clinics across the state struggle to find enough providers to care for the working poor and uninsured. Paving the way for health care providers to volunteer their time more easily will ease some of that struggle. “This bill means that nonprofits like ours will be able to have more dedicated volunteer professionals working in our clinics caring for the underserved, without incurring their own overhead costs,” said Rhonda Switzer, Executive Director of the Interfaith Dental Clinic in Nashville.

The Tennessee Primary Care Association (TPCA) continues its mission to improve access to all Tennesseans, especially the underserved. “By passing this legislation, the General Assembly has shown they believe in the work that health centers are doing in Tennessee,” said Kathy Wood-Dobbins, CEO of TPCA. “We hope they continue to support increasing access to health care for everyone and ensuring we all have a health care home.”

Tennessee Primary Care Association (TPCA) is a nonprofit corporation connecting Tennesseans with a health care home, especially the medically underserved. Since its inception in 1976, TPCA committed to 1) identifying unmet needs and gaps in service access, 2) developing systems of care, 3) advocating for resources, and 4) promoting awareness of Community Health Centers. Membership includes nonprofit primary care clinics across the state operating over 140 sites providing comprehensive medical care.