

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON HB 3133 FROM DR. TIM ALLEN ON BEHALF OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF PATHOLOGISTS

Esteemed members of the House Committee on Insurance:

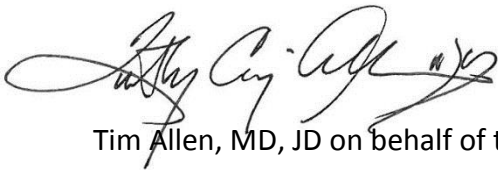
My name is Dr. Tim Allen, and I am a member of the Texas Society of Pathologists (TSP). I am providing testimony today representing TSP and regarding HB 3133 relating to notice and availability of mediation for balance billing by a facility-based physician.

The members of TSP support the current mediation process for determining disputes for out of network (OON) claims, and will continue to support this process, frankly because it is working. One reason mediation is working as intended is because patients are given a voice in the process when bills are much larger than expected. But the current \$1000 threshold required to trigger mediation also works to keep the balance between providers caring for patients and the health plans responsible for fulfilling the healthcare claims on behalf of their policyholders.

The current draft of HB 3133 removes this threshold and creates the potential where every claim for OON services are subject to this additional administrative burden. If the threshold needs to be adjusted from the current \$1000, TSP stands ready to discuss what is the appropriate amount. But we must strongly oppose any efforts to remove the threshold entirely.

Thank you for your time and attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Allen", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Allen, MD, JD on behalf of the Texas Society of Pathologists