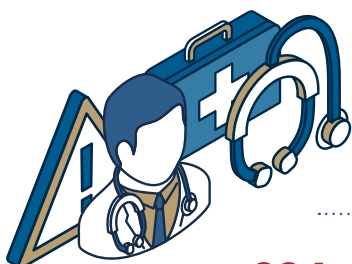


# Expanding Telehealth in Texas

**Antiquated telehealth laws in Texas make it illegal for doctors to talk to their patients when the doctor is out of the state.**

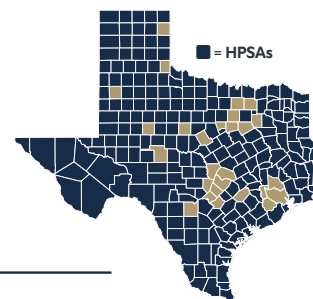
This is a problem that compounds the critical shortage of care options for Texans with chronic health conditions or disabilities.

And for those in rural areas, the crisis is even worse.



The Lone Star State is now **short more than 20,000 doctors**, yet only has 334 residency slots available a year.

**224 of Texas' 254 counties** are health professional shortage areas (HPSA) which means most areas in the state do not have one provider for every 3,500 residents.



**This dire situation leaves many patients with a difficult choice:**



Forego care altogether

—OR—



Choose higher-cost alternatives such as urgent care or the emergency room

**Allowing patients greater access to providers via telehealth would help alleviate the shortage, but there is a patchwork of rules prohibiting it.**



