

**PRESENTED AT THE 2011 DNP CONFERENCE**

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**Abstract Category:** DNP in Policy Leadership

**Title:** Independent Prescriptive Authority in Texas: APRN's Long Journey

**Purpose:** The purpose of this poster is to review the strategies, successes, and pitfalls Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) have experienced in the legislative road to independent prescriptive authority in Texas.

**Objective 1:** Identify two effective legislative strategies usable in your state

**Objective 2:** Recognize and discuss stakeholders and the opposition in your state.

**Objective 3:** Discuss practice implications independent prescriptive authority has had or will have in your state.

**Abstract:**

Background and Significance: Texas is currently in the midst of a health care crisis due to lack of access to quality health care and a shortage of primary care providers. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are the solution to this crisis, but APRNs must be allowed to practice to the full extent of their education and experience by granting independent prescriptive authority regulated by the Texas Board of Nursing.

Independent prescriptive authority has been a long and challenging journey for APRNs. This poster highlights the successful legislative strategies used to move toward independent prescriptive authority in Texas

Implications for Practice: Legislative milestones serve as building blocks for future success. Allowing all APRNs to diagnose and prescribe without delegated authority from physicians, improves access to high quality health care for Texans. Over 40 years of evidenced-based research has shown the majority of nurse practitioners practice in rural and medically underserved areas and are not only cost effective providers but also provide safe, quality health care with good outcomes.

Strategies for Success: A historical view of the legislative steps toward independent prescriptive authority in Texas will be evaluated and analyzed. Legislative strategies including grassroots efforts, strategic and effective networking, and organization of supporting stakeholders are included.

