

Randy Marshall and other concerned parties,

My name is Scott Beard, MD. I am a board certified gynecologist practicing at Nor-Lea Hospital District with sub-specialty certification in FPMRS. I have had 2 patients come to me because they were refused care in Lubbock over liability concerns. Fortunately I was able to provide care for both here at Nor-Lea Hospital District. However Trauma, Obstetrics and many specialty services are very limited here in Lea County. Currently many OB patients are driving upto 2 hours into Texas to get services as far away as Lubbock. Even if they could drive to other parts of New Mexico there are inherent risks in seeking medical care - particularly trauma and obstetric- at long distances. (Both OB and trauma are highly litigious as well.)

The most vulnerable patients (poor, young & elderly) also have the greatest transportation difficulties which will mean less appropriate care and higher use of emergency services. As a specialist in this portion of New Mexico, I actually personally stand to gain from this situation in the short term. However it is not right for my patients, it is not good law, and it will only hurt this portion of New Mexico in the long run.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Beard", written in a cursive style.

Scott Beard MD
FACOG, FPMRS