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Medical Cannabis in Texas: Five Priorities for the 2027 Session

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The situation

HB 46, effective September 1, 2025, was the largest expansion of the Texas Compassionate Use Program (TCUP) since it began in 2015. It added chronic pain, Crohn's disease, traumatic brain injury, terminal illness and hospice care as qualifying conditions, and set a limit of 10 mg THC per dose.[1,2] By the end of 2025, 135,470 patients were in the registry, about 32% more than a year earlier.[5]

Meanwhile, Texas has removed most intoxicating hemp products from shelves, and a new federal hemp definition takes effect in November–December 2026.[3,4] Many Texans who relied on unregulated products will turn to their physicians for answers. Texas now needs a regulated medical program that is safe, workable and grounded in evidence.

Recommendations

1. **Educate physicians.** Fund continuing education so more Texas physicians can counsel and prescribe safely.
   Why: Most physicians were never trained in cannabinoid pharmacology, yet patients ask about cannabis, and the hemp products they already use, every week.

2. **Make the registry easier to use** for physicians and patients, while protecting privacy.
   Why: The Compassionate Use Registry of Texas is the only route to a legal prescription. Delays fall hardest on the seriously ill, who have the least time to wait.

3. **Set strong product standards:** testing, accurate labeling, and child-resistant packaging for every cannabinoid product sold in Texas.
   Why: Lab-made synthetic THC and mislabeled products have reached Texans outside any medical oversight. Patients and families deserve to know what they are taking.

4. **Protect access for hospice and seriously ill patients,** including clear rules for caregivers and facilities.
   Why: HB 46 made terminal illness and hospice care qualifying conditions, but these patients often depend on caregivers, nursing staff and facility policies to use a prescription.

5. **Support Texas-based research** on medical cannabis outcomes.
   Why: With more than 135,000 registered patients, Texas can study benefits, side effects and drug interactions in its own population to guide future policy.

TCUP AT A GLANCE

135,470
registered patients at the end of 2025[5]

+32%
growth in one year[5]

10 mg
THC per dose limit under HB 46[1,2]

15
dispensing organizations authorized under HB 46[1,2]

ABOUT DR. REZAIE

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Dr. Rezaie does not work with or endorse any Texas dispensing organization. Views expressed are her own. This brief is educational and is not medical or legal advice.

1. Texas Department of Public Safety. 89th Legislation: Summary of New Laws Impacting the Compassionate Use Program (HB 46).
2. Marijuana Policy Project. HB 46 expands Compassionate Use Program (June 2025).
3. Texas State Law Library. Cannabis & the Law: Consumable Hemp Products (Nov 2026).
4. Texas State Law Library. Cannabis & the Law: CBD & Delta-8 (Oct 2026).
5. KPRC Click2Houston. A blossoming Texas medical marijuana industry adds new businesses, products and patients (Jan 12, 2026; DPS registry count).