

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Texas Lawmakers Pass Hospital infection Reporting Bill**

### **Bill Requires Texas Hospitals to Report Patient Infections to the Public**

AUSTIN, TX – Texans will be able to find out whether their local hospital is doing a good job preventing patient infections under legislation approved by state lawmakers today. The Texas House passed SB 288, sponsored by Senator Jane Nelson and Representative Dianne Delisi, which is designed to reduce infections that patients acquire during treatment.

A similar version of SB 288 already has been approved by the Senate. The House-adopted version of SB 288 now must return to the Senate for a concurrence vote before it is sent to Governor Rick Perry for his consideration.

“Hospitals shouldn’t make patients sicker by failing to observe proper infection control practices,” said Lisa McGiffert, Director of Consumers Union’s Stop Hospital Infections Campaign ([www.StopHospitalInfections.org](http://www.StopHospitalInfections.org)). “Making infection rates public will help make sure hospitals do their best to keep patients safe from preventable infections.”

Hospital infections claim 90,000 lives every year according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and add billions of dollars to health care bills paid by insurers, patients, and taxpayers. Recent CDC estimates of the cost of hospital acquired infections range from \$6 billion to an astounding \$27.5 billion each year. Research shows that hospitals could prevent many infections if they followed infection control practices more strictly.

SB 288 requires hospitals to publicly disclose information about certain infections patients develop during treatment. The bill follows the recommendations of an interim committee established in 2005 by the state legislature to develop a plan for hospital infection reporting.

Under the bill approved by Texas lawmakers, hospitals would be required to disclose rates for surgical site infections for selected operations and blood stream infections associated with central lines. Ambulatory surgical centers would be required to disclose infection rates for selected surgeries. Pediatric hospitals would be required to disclose rates for selected surgical and respiratory infections that can occur more frequently in their facilities. This information would be made available to the public in a report detailing the patient infection rates for each hospital in Texas.

Over the past three years, 15 states around the country have adopted laws requiring hospital infection reporting. So far, Florida, Missouri, and Pennsylvania have produced public reports on

their state hospitals' infection rates. More information on these reports and hospital infections can be found at: <http://www.consumersunion.org/campaigns/stophospitalinfections/learn.html>

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