

**Texas Medical Board
Press Release
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Medical Board suspends license of Roberto Zayas Jr., M.D., formerly of Houston; continues the licensure suspension of Dennis Donald Roberts, M.D., of Houston

A panel of the Texas Medical Board suspended the license of Roberto Zayas Jr., M.D., license number K2832, after determining that Dr. Zayas' continuation in the practice of medicine would present a continuing threat to the public welfare. The temporary suspension hearing was held with notice on Monday, April 28.

The action was based on the panel's finding that Dr. Zayas was responsible for weight-loss clinics in Houston, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, The Woodlands, Kingwood and Victoria, where diet drugs are provided to patients without Dr. Zayas ever seeing the patients or reviewing their charts. In addition, the panel found that patients are receiving injections of Adenosine Monophosphate for weight loss, and this drug is not indicated or approved for weight loss. The panel also found that medical records were inadequate; that patients were not giving informed consent for off-label use of drugs; that physician assistants and advanced nurse practitioners who were dispensing the drugs were not adequately supervised; that drugs were being improperly dispensed at the clinics; and that Dr. Zayas was billing for treating patients whom he never saw or treated.

The length of a temporary suspension is indefinite and it remains in effect until the board takes further action.

A panel of the Texas Medical Board continued the suspension of the license of Dennis Donald Roberts, M.D., license number M6362, after determining that Dr. Roberts' continuation in the practice of medicine would present a continuing threat to the public welfare.

A temporary suspension hearing had been held without notice on Tuesday, March 18, under the Board's authority, granted by S.B. 104 of the 78th Legislature, to suspend or restrict a physician's license without notice when it determines the physician's continuation in practice would constitute a continuing threat to the public welfare. That panel suspended Dr. Roberts' license. On Monday, April 28, the Board held a hearing with notice to Dr. Roberts, who attended the hearing, along with his attorney.

The action was based on Dr. Roberts' abuse of anesthesia drugs. After Dr. Roberts withdrew from a residency program in May, 2007, the Texas Medical Board received a report that he had admitted a history of drug abuse. Dr. Robert's use of an anesthesia drug while he was on duty as an emergency room physician on January 17 resulted in drug intoxication.

The length of a temporary suspension is indefinite and it remains in effect until the board takes further action.

-30-

The Texas Medical Board, the state agency that regulates physicians, physician assistants, surgical assistants and acupuncturists, provides consumer protection through licensure, investigation and disciplinary action. The Board, under President Roberta M. Kalafut, D.O., and Executive Director Donald W. Patrick, M.D., J.D., and mandated by Senate Bill 104 of the 78th Legislature and S.B. 419 of the 79th Legislature, have strengthened and accelerated the disciplinary process for licensees who fail to meet the required standards of professional proficiency and behavior. Information on filing a complaint is on the agency web site at <http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/consumers/complain/complain.php> or by calling (800) 201-9353. See the home page at <http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/>.