

# PRESS RELEASE



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Austin, Texas – September 4, 2025

### **STREET MEDICS AUSTIN FORCED TO PAUSE ON-CAMPUS FIRST-AID SUPPORT AFTER POLICY CHANGE AT UT AUSTIN**

Street Medics Austin (SMA), announced today that it has been forced to pause on-campus support at the University of Texas at Austin following enforcement of a new state law and updated university policies.

On September 4, SMA volunteers (11 of whom were current UT students) arrived to provide free first-aid support on campus. They were informed by UT staff that, under the new restrictions, non-UT-associated individuals may not be present on university property during events or demonstrations. Staff warned that remaining would result in criminal trespass charges against our Incident Commander who is not a UT Student.

**“Street Medics Austin has been providing free first aid to UT students both on and off campus since 2020,”** said Matthew Blaney, President of SMA. **“We believed we had a good understanding with the Dean of Students’ office, and we are surprised and saddened to be targeted under these new rules.”**

While on-campus deployments are paused, SMA will continue offering free first-aid services on public areas adjacent to campus.

SMA called on students and alumni to make their voices heard. **“If you’ve ever received medical help from us, seen us providing support, or simply believe UT students deserve access to free first aid, we encourage you to contact the Dean of Students’ office and share your support,”** said Julia Heilrayne, UT Alumni and Board Vice President.

#### About Street Medics Austin

Street Medics Austin (SMA) is a community-led, community-focused 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Austin, Texas. Founded in 2020, SMA provides free medical care, training, and support to underserved communities and individuals engaged in First Amendment-protected activities. SMA offers American Heart Association CPR, AED, and First Aid certification courses, Stop the Bleed® training, and free harm-reduction resources such as naloxone distribution.

For more information, visit <https://streetmedicsaustin.org>.