



April 21, 2015

Representative Sylvester Turner
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

Re: Support of HB 1437

Dear Representative Turner:

On behalf of the Texas EMS Alliance (TEMSA), I am writing to offer our strong support for HB 1437, which would require the state to send funds earmarked for trauma funding to trauma programs. TEMSA was founded in 2013 by a diverse alliance of Texas EMS providers to provide a public policy voice that will enhance the future of EMS in Texas. Today, TEMSA represents over 50 entities that provide EMS services, including city-operated EMS, non-profit entities that provide EMS services to cities and regions, and ambulance companies that provide outsourced EMS services to underserved communities.

By fully funding EMS and trauma care, HB 1437 would demonstrate the state's commitment to EMS trauma care in our communities. Today, EMS providers cannot always rely on the state to fully fund EMS and trauma services because it is not defined as an "essential service" in Texas.

EMS providers respond to all calls for service, but they do not always end up transporting a patient from the scene, which is how EMS providers are reimbursed. As a result, responses in which a patient is not transported results in a significant cost to EMS providers.

In order to remain "response ready" for significant trauma-related calls, we must ensure that funds are available to supplement lost revenue from calls where the patient has left the scene, refuses transport, or has no ability to pay.

In addition, EMS providers must maintain training and equipment. The state's EMS and trauma funding serves as one of the most important funding sources for capital improvement and training.

Thanks again for introducing this important piece of legislation. We look forward to working with you to ensure that HB 1437 passes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dudley Wait".

Dudley Wait, Director – Board of Directors
Texas EMS Alliance