April 20, 2015

Representative John Zerwas, MD
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

Re: Support of HB 2498

Dear Rep. Zerwas:

On behalf of the Texas EMS Alliance (TEMSA), I am writing to offer our strong support for HB 2498, which would direct the state of Texas to enter into the EMS Personnel Licensure Compact with other states that have approved the compact. 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.

HB 2498 would greatly enhance the ability of EMS providers to deliver emergency services in Texas and follow the nurse interstate licensure compact, which is in place today, and the physician interstate licensure compact, which is being considered by the 84th Legislature.

By passing HB 2498, the state's following emergency response needs would be met:

- Enable EMS providers that straddle the state lines to move resources across the state border when there are times of system overload or large-scale emergencies. In addition, rural providers that are present along state borders may be able to meet provider shortages by utilizing EMS providers across the state border on a part-time basis. This would help alleviate the EMS provider shortage.
- Permit EMS providers to obtain necessary resources during times of catastrophic events and not have to wait for the federal government to "federalize" EMS personnel.
- Texas' explosive population growth results in a need for more EMS personnel to meet the growing population. HB 2498 would allow EMS personnel to begin work right away, just as nurses are currently allowed to do. EMS providers who are licensed in other states that have approved the EMS compact in their home states would be able to begin work once they establish their Texas residency.

Thanks again for introducing this important piece of legislation. We look forward to working with you to ensure that HB 2498 passes.

Sincerely,

Dudley Wait, Director – Board of Directors
Texas EMS Alliance