April 13, 2015

Representative Mando Martinez
P.O. Box 2910
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78768

**Re: Support for HB 2770**

Dear Representative Martinez

On behalf of the Texas EMS Alliance (TEMSA), I am writing to offer our strong support for HB 2770. 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 2770 would provide critical support to Texas EMS providers and fire personnel (both paid and volunteer). It would allow emergency response employees to receive the same information that peace officers are entitled to when they come in contact with bodily fluids during the course or scope of their employment.

Today, law enforcement have access to mandatory and court ordered testing of arrested individuals if the officers were exposed to the suspect's bodily fluids. EMS providers and fire personnel do not have these same protections when exposed to an individual's bodily fluids.

HB 2770 would require each organization to have an infection control officer who can work with hospital and public health personnel to deliver test results and treatment plans to exposed EMS providers and their physicians in a timely manner. Today, without HB 2770, the individual's bodily fluids are tested and then sent to the local health department, whose officials are then expected to track down the exposed EMS provider and report the results to them. Unfortunately, this creates a significant delay for the EMS provider, who may need immediate medical attention.

Again, thank you for introducing this important piece of legislation. We look forward to working with lawmakers to ensure that HB 2770 is signed into law.

Sincerely,

Dudley Wait, Director – Board of Directors
Texas EMS Alliance