



May 5, 2015

Representative Eddie Rodriguez
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

Re: Support of HB 3273

Dear Rep. Rodriguez:

On behalf of the Texas EMS Alliance (TEMSA), I am writing to offer our strong support for HB 3273, which would provide important tuition relief to the EMS professionals who are providing emergency services to our communities. 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.

Currently, governmental fire and law enforcement personnel enjoy an exception to tuition and laboratory fees. However, "third service" governmental employees (those who provide ambulance services but do not work for the fire department) do not get this benefit. HB 3273 would ensure that this oversight is corrected.

EMS is changing from a fee-for-service to a pay-for-performance method of reimbursement and operation. We are members of the "health care safety net," and this reform would lead to a much greater need for higher education training for the day-to-day operations, leadership, and medical performance required in our industry.

In addition, we are also developing different service models in which EMS is not only providing 9-1-1 emergency transport, but it is also providing integrated care across our communities. This includes house calls, destination management, higher levels of patient assessment, and connecting patients to appropriate social services. This increased level of care requires a higher level of medical education and knowledge beyond the paramedic curriculum that will be necessary as our health care system continues to evolve. HB 3273 would allow EMS personnel to pursue more education to fulfill these new roles.

Thanks again for introducing this important piece of legislation. We look forward to working with you to ensure that HB 3273 passes.

Sincerely,

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

Dudley Wait, Director – Board of Directors
Texas EMS Alliance