

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Brandon Creighton
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Texas EMS Alliance's Support for SB 1386

Dear Senator Creighton:

I am writing on behalf of the Texas EMS Alliance (TEMSA) to offer our support for SB 1386, which would direct an EMS agency that elects to operate a body camera program to adopt a policy for use of body cameras. TEMSA was founded in 2015 as the unified voice of Texas EMS agencies. TEMSA's membership consists of EMS agencies that offer emergency services to both urban and rural communities across the state.

Several Texas EMS agencies are utilizing law enforcement body cameras for their EMS professionals while they are on duty. The body cameras are used to protect the EMS crews on call. In addition, the body cameras are used to examine the EMS professionals' performance and to improve efforts following the response.

Three Houston-area EMS agencies are using body cameras, and they have developed thoughtful and encompassing policies that can serve as models for other Texas EMS agencies that choose to implement body camera initiatives.

Body cameras within the EMS field remain voluntary as we continue to determine the best use of the technology for EMS. However, for those EMS agencies that do choose to utilize body cameras, it is critical for those agencies to develop internal policies to govern body cameras, and SB 1386 would create the important framework.

TEMSA looks forward to working with you to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff A. Mincy".

Jeff Mincy
President
Texas EMS Alliance