March 8, 2016

Re: Senate Bill 1107, Relating to telemedicine and telehealth services.

Dear Chairman Schwertner and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of our almost 500 member hospitals and health systems, the Texas Hospital Association thanks you for the opportunity to present this written testimony regarding telemedicine and telehealth and SB 1107, as filed.

THA believes that SB 1107 recognizes new and emerging medical delivery options while also ensuring that the medical standard of care is maintained. In addition, we believe that our member hospitals can continue to provide critical telemedicine services under the language of SB 1107. Texas hospitals appreciate Senator Schwertner's commitment to fostering consensus among all interested parties on this challenging issue.

Texas hospitals continue to adopt telemedical models that are innovative, expand access to preventative and specialty care, and lower health care costs. However, reimbursement for telemedical and telehealth services remains a challenge for many hospitals. While we applaud the current insurance payment language in SB 1107, we would like the opportunity to continue to work with the Chairman and other stakeholders to strengthen that language to ensure hospitals can reach more patients across the state and deliver the best possible level of care.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to present these comments, and for your leadership on this important issue. If we can provide any additional information or be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

For more information, contact:

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