

April 28, 2015

The Honorable Rodney Ellis  
Texas Senate  
P.O. Box 12068 - Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Senator Ellis:

We write to share our concern regarding Senate Bill 93, which would eliminate the Driver Responsibility Program (DRP) in Texas.

The Texas Legislature created the Driver Responsibility Program in 2003 to strengthen the Texas trauma care system. The Texas trauma system brings together providers from throughout the state to ensure that all Texans receive the best, most timely health care possible when a serious health care incident occurs.

The system is working as intended. The Texas trauma case fatality rate for 2013 was 2.96 percent, more than a point and a half lower than the national rate of 4.47 percent. This success would not be possible without a strong statewide trauma system.

The DRP is an indispensable part of this strong trauma care system. The DRP is the leading source of state funding for the Texas trauma system, with an estimated \$73.5 million per year generated according to the Comptroller's Biennial Revenue Estimate. Any loss of current funding would be detrimental to the system's ability to continue delivering lifesaving care in communities across the state. **Repealing the DRP without replacing the lost funding would destabilize the trauma care system and likely cause major gaps in the availability of trauma care services.**

The DRP partially compensates Texas trauma hospitals for their uncompensated trauma care – which approaches \$300 million a year -- and supports EMS providers and the Trauma Service Area Regional Advisory Councils (RACs).

For these reasons, our organizations do not support SB 93. As always, we offer our support and assistance to modify the current program to address areas of inequity and to determine an alternative source of funding for the Texas trauma system.

Sincerely,



TEXAS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION



Physicians Caring for Texans



TEACHING  
HOSPITALS  
of TEXAS



cc: Members, Senate Transportation