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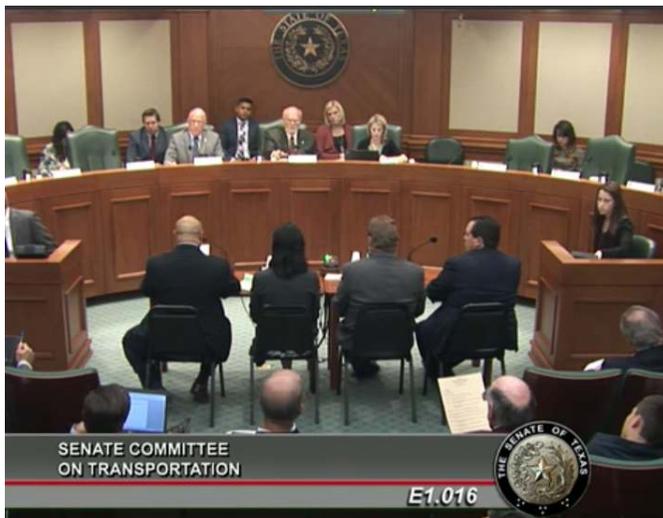
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Advocates Travel to Austin to Testify on Driver Responsibility Program, House Passes State Budget for FY 18-19

On Wednesday, April 5, the Senate Transportation Committee considered several pieces of legislation regarding the Driver Responsibility Program (DRP). Created in 2003, the DRP assesses a surcharge on individuals for certain traffic offenses. Over the years, the program has declined in popularity and lawmakers have considered options to eliminate the program completely. However, eliminating the program would result in a significant impact on the state budget and would remove the largest source of funding for the state trauma system.



Raj Gandhi, MD, Vice Chair of the TETAF Board of Directors and Chris Young, a motorcycle accident survivor from Houston, traveled to Austin Wednesday to testify to the need to preserve funding for our state's trauma hospitals, EMS providers and Regional Advisory Councils.

Dr. Gandhi spoke to the costs associated with maintaining a designated trauma facility, the \$330 million a year in uncompensated care and the recent

closures of several rural facilities.

Chris Young gave an important, and often overlooked, perspective to the debate by sharing his own experience as a patient at Ben Taub Hospital. In 2014, Chris was riding his motorcycle when he was rear-ended, flying nearly 40 feet. Because of the state trauma system, EMS responded quickly and transported him to Ben Taub Hospital, where he awoke 10 days later having suffered an internal decapitation.

As Chris said in his testimony, “what was truly at stake that dreadful morning, was the ability of one of our citizens to give back to their community, by being a productive member of society.” Chris has worked hard to recover and has become a great advocate for the trauma and emergency healthcare system!



While the Senate considered numerous bills affecting the DRP in one way or another, the most concerning is [SB 90](#) by Sen. Bob Hall (R-Edgewood). As written, SB 90 would eliminate the Driver Responsibility Program, without a replacement source of funding for the trauma system. It is crucial that any discussion of DRP elimination also include a permanent replacement source of funding for the system. You can help by clicking [here](#) to contact your Senator to tell them you oppose eliminating the Driver Responsibility Program without replacement funding.

In addition to SB 90, the committee considered [SB 266](#) by Sen. Kirk Watson (D-Austin). SB 266 reduces the amount of the DRP fines by 50%, but allocates 99% of the funds received to Account 5111. TETAF registered in support of this bill, as a constructive attempt to modify and improve the program without harming funding for the trauma system.

Both bills were left pending in committee.

On Thursday, April 6, the full House took up SB 1, their version of the state budget for FY 18-19. Early the next morning, debate wrapped up and the House passed a \$218.2 billion budget. The House version of the budget utilizes \$2.5 billion from the state Rainy Day Fund in order to increase spending for child protective services and other vulnerable children.

Because the House and Senate have both passed different versions of SB 1, a conference committee will soon be named to negotiate the differences between the two bills.

A rider to increase appropriations to the RACs remains in Article XI of the House budget, meaning it is eligible for consideration by the conference committee members.

In addition, [HB 1148](#) by Rep. Sarah Davis (R-Houston) has passed the House and is awaiting a hearing in the Senate. HB 1148 requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to designate eight or more administrative cooperatives to provide administrative functions for each trauma service area regional advisory council located within the public health region served by the cooperative. It also requires GETAC and the RACs to develop a written 25-year plan for coordinating emergency healthcare services throughout the state.

On April 4, the House Public Health Committee heard testimony on [HB 1407](#). HB 1407 would establish the Emergency Medical Services Assistance Fund to provide an ongoing source of funding for Local Project Grants and rural EMS education.

It is not too late to join the TETAF legislative workgroup. Contact [Courtney DeBower](#) for more information. In addition, advocates can take action on numerous issues via the [TETAF advocacy page](#).

TETAF Announces New Perinatal Manager



Carla Rider, RNC-LRN, MSN, MBA has been hired as Perinatal Manager



for TETAF's Texas Perinatal Services Program. Ms. Rider has more than 22 years of experience in women's and children's nursing, ranging from bedside nursing to management positions at hospitals in Florida, Texas and Arkansas.

Ms. Rider served as the Director of Women's and Children's Services at Medical City Plano. She has developed and implemented a number of protocols and initiatives during her career that have resulted in improved patient outcomes and enhanced staff development. She also served on the faculty of the University of Phoenix where she taught courses on healthcare leadership and healthcare policy.

Rider earned her undergraduate degree in nursing from Texas Women's University in Denton. She also holds a Master in Nursing degree from Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky, and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Phoenix in Dallas. Rider is currently enrolled at the University of South Alabama and is a candidate to obtain a Doctorate in Nursing Practice in July 2017.

She has been the recipient of numerous awards during her career, including the National Association of Neonatal Nursing Leadership Award, National Faculty for the Sigma Theta Tau Maternal Child Health National Leadership Academy and the Department of Defense Patriotic Employer Award. She has also been an active volunteer for several local and national organizations, such as the March of Dimes.

Rider is currently a member of the Association of Women's Health/Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing, the National Association of Neonatal Nursing, American Organization of Nurse Executives and Sigma Theta

Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

"We are thrilled to have someone with Carla's experience and passion join the TETAF team," said CEO Dinah Welsh. "We look forward to working with her to strengthen our perinatal services program."

TETAF Accepting Applications for Trauma Surveyors

TETAF is currently adding a limited number of trauma surveyors to our verification team.

Applicants must be a physician or nurse with current experience coordinating and managing a Trauma Center and have direct experience in the preparation for and successful completion of trauma facility verifications/designations for no less than two successful surveys. They must be currently employed in the coordination of care for trauma patients and employed by a facility that maintains a trauma designation in good standing with no contingencies with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

More information and an application are available [online](#).

TETAF & GETAC Quarterly Meetings

The next TETAF General Meeting will take place May 9 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Austin.

TETAF General Meeting

Tuesday, May 9

5:30 PM
Wyndham Garden Hotel
Lady Bird Lake Room
3401 South Interstate 35
Austin, TX

No RSVP is required and all are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served. An agenda will be posted on the [TETAF website](#) prior to the meeting.

In addition, the GETAC quarterly meetings will take place May 10-12 at the Wyndham. TETAF provides a [live-stream](#) of all committee meetings as well as the Council meeting.

Register Now: Panhandle Stroke & STEMI Conference

TETAF has partnered with the Panhandle RAC to bring stroke and STEMI education to Amarillo. This course will provide participants with an update on the latest research and best practices in the management of patients with cardiovascular disease to include prehospital management of both stroke and STEMI, emergency department management of acute stroke and STEMI, STEMI identification and ways for EMS and hospitals to partner to provide optimal public education and patient care.

The course is open to all, but RAC A & B members receive a discounted rate of only \$20! More information and registration are available [online](#).



Texas Perinatal Services Update

TETAF is excited to announce the launch of our new Texas Perinatal Services webpage at www.perinatal-tetaf.org. Visit our new page for perinatal updates, resources and survey information.

The Texas Perinatal Services Program of TETAF is currently scheduling surveys for all levels of Texas neonatal facilities. TETAF credentialed surveyors will provide the hospital with the required report for submission to the Texas Department of State Health Services, Office of EMS/Trauma for designation. The TETAF survey experience offers an educational opportunity with experienced, knowledgeable neonatal medical staff and neonatal program management. Request a survey [here](#).



Texas Perinatal Services

EDUCATION : INFORMATION : SURVEYS

A Program of the Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation

Texas Injury Prevention Conference

The Texas Department of State Health Services, Title V Maternal & Child Health, will host the 2017 Texas Injury Prevention Conference at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol from May 4-5, 2017. The conference will provide training and education on the prevention of injury and death for infants, children and adolescents. Register [here](#).

Continuing education for multiple disciplines will be provided for this event.



TEXAS
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**Texas Department of State
Health Services**

TETAF Calendar

A full list of educational opportunities and upcoming meetings can be found on the [TETAF website](#).

April 10-11 – TETAF Hospital Data Management Course (Beaumont)

April 24 – Panhandle RAC Stroke & STEMI Conference (Amarillo)

May 9 – TETAF General Meeting (Austin)

May 9 – Texas Trauma Coordinator’s Forum (Austin)

May 10-12 – Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (Austin)

** Please submit any additional educational opportunities to [Courtney DeBower](#).*



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