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March 2017

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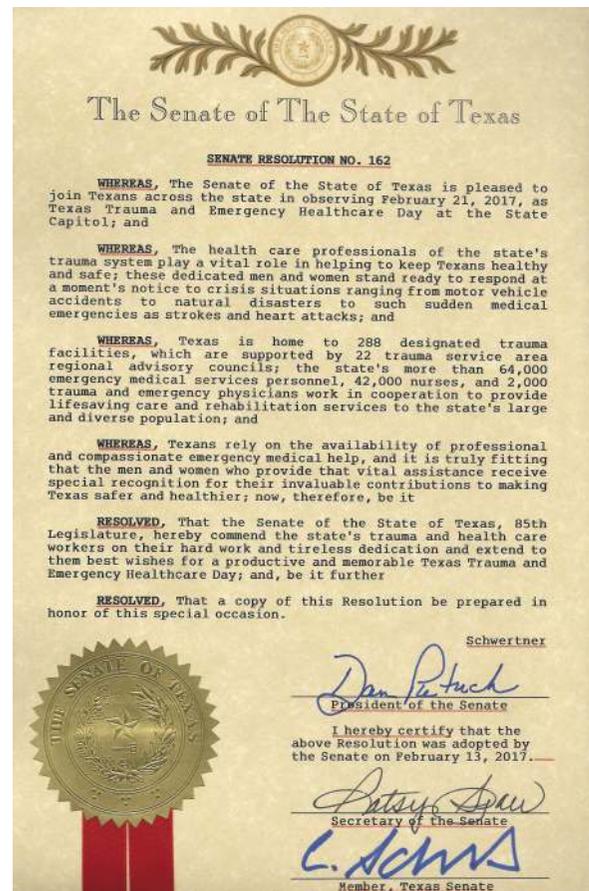
## Advocates Travel to Austin for Trauma & Emergency Healthcare Day at the Capitol

On Feb. 21 more than 150 advocates traveled to Austin for the biannual Trauma & Emergency Healthcare Day at the Capitol.” This event historically serves as an opportunity to educate lawmakers on

the needs of the system, and show support from all corners of the state. This year was no different, with doctors, nurses, EMTs, RAC staff and trauma survivors traveling from as far as El Paso, Amarillo, Lufkin & Harlingen. Thank you to the Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum for their continued participation and partnership.

The day began with a briefing at the Texas Hospital Association. TETAF CEO Dinah Welsh welcomed advocates and provided an overview of the current legislative climate, successful advocacy tips and TETAF's [legislative priorities](#) for the session.

Participants then walked to the Capitol, where both the House & Senate recognized attendees and passed resolutions in honor of the day. The highlight of the day was the many, many successful visits with lawmakers. Advocates shared firsthand the successes and the needs of Texas's trauma hospitals, EMS agencies and Regional Advisory Councils, asking lawmakers to fully fund the system. Their efforts are crucial to TETAF's success at the Capitol and we are grateful to everyone who made the trip to Austin. More photos are available [online](#).



## Update from the State Capitol

The 85th legislative session is well underway and the TETAF advocacy team continues to advocate for TETAF's [legislative priorities](#), as well as other bills regarding injury prevention, disaster preparedness, trauma care, the emergency medical services and the Regional Advisory Councils.

Legislation will continue to be filed through the March 10 deadline. Once filed, those bills are referred to a committee for consideration. While the budget process has been underway for some time, other committees have recently begun meeting to consider legislation.

On Feb. 28, the House Committee on Public Health met to consider [HB 1148](#) by Rep. Sarah Davis (R-Houston). This bill calls for the creation of cooperatives to provide administrative functions for the RACs. It also sets the groundwork for the creation of a 25-year written plan for coordinating emergency medical services throughout the state. When first filed, numerous concerns about the bill were expressed by stakeholders. However, Rep. Davis has been amendable to many updates and improvements to the bill recommended by RAC leadership and laid out a substitute version of the bill on the 28th. This substitute addresses the concerns of many of the RACs. However, TETAF will continue to work with all 22 of the RACs to serve as an arbitrator with Rep. Davis and a source of information for our membership.

Also on the committee's agenda for Feb. 28 was [HB 280](#), relating to a grant program for reducing workplace violence against nurses. Violence is a common workplace hazard for nurses, posing a threat to both caregivers and patients. TETAF supports this legislation and encourages passage this session.

The Senate Finance Committee also met on Feb. 28 to consider two pieces of legislation relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty. Both [SB 15](#) and [SJR 1](#) were reported favorably out of the committee on March 1 and will now be considered by the full Senate.

Progress continues on the state budget process for FY 2018-2019. TETAF has drafted a rider appropriating an additional \$6 million per year to the Regional Advisory Councils and is actively working with the health & human services subcommittees ("Article II") of both the House and Senate to include this funding request in the budget.

On Feb. 23 the Article II Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee met to hear public testimony on the Department of State Health Services budget. TETAF Vice Chair Raj Gandhi, MD, and SETRAC CEO Darrell Pile waited patiently for more than 12 hours to be able to testify to the needs of the trauma and emergency healthcare system. Public testimony is crucial to the budget process and TETAF greatly appreciates the dedication of Dr. Gandhi and Mr. Pile.

To learn more about the TETAF legislative workgroup, or to get involved at the Capitol, contact [Courtney DeBower](#).

## **Register Now: TETAF Hospital Data Management Course**

The 2017 TETAF Hospital Data Management Course will take place April 10-11 at CHRISTUS Southeast Texas St. Elizabeth in Beaumont.

TETAF offers this course annually, designed to improve the skill sets of the data entry specialist specific to data input, data abstraction and statistical reporting, which are used to improve the state's emergency care system.

Registration is now available [online](#).

## **Texas Perinatal Services Update**

TETAF is excited to announce the launch of our Texas Perinatal Services [web page](#). Visit our new page

for perinatal updates, resources and survey information.

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If your facility has requested a survey, be on the lookout for a Pre-Survey Questionnaire (PSQ). The PSQ is an information gathering tool to provide the surveyors with advance knowledge of the program. All programs are unique and it is helpful for the surveyors to understand how individual programs works in order to plan for the site survey.

If your facility is not able to answer a question in the PSQ, please share what you can and select N/A if needed. If TETAF requires additional information to address the rule criteria, a surveyor will ask for it on site. The PSQ is confidential and is not shared with anyone other than the facility's surveyors and the TETAF survey coordinators. The TETAF Perinatal Services Program is always available to answer your questions or address your concerns. Contact [Brenda Putz](#) or [Kathy Clayton](#) with any questions at 512/524-2892.

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TETAF encourages all NICU facilities to utilize the following resources:

- TETAF Website - [NICU Resources Page](#)
- [TX NICU Coordinators Forum](#)
- TETAF Perinatal Distribution List - [Sign Up Here](#)

Staff from the Texas Perinatal Services Program are also available to attend Regional Advisory Council/Perinatal Care Region meetings to provide more information on the survey process and answer any questions. Please contact [Brenda Putz](#) to schedule an appointment.



# Texas Perinatal Services

EDUCATION : INFORMATION : SURVEYS

A Program of the Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation

## Save the Date: 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.

A block of rooms has been secured at the Sheraton Hotel for conference attendees at the per diem rate of \$141/night. [Click here](#) to reserve your room now.

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



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

**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)**

**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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