



November 14, 2011

Mrs. Kathryn Perkins, RN, MBA  
Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Services  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
P.O. Box 149347  
Austin, Texas 78714-9347

Dear Mrs. Perkins: *Kathy:*

Recent changes to the Texas Department of State Health Services' contracts with the Texas Trauma Service Area Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) have created concern over RAC subscription fees paid to the Texas EMS, Trauma & Acute Care Foundation. As you know, TETAF is a 501(c)(3) organization that exists to assist and further develop emergency, trauma and acute health care systems in Texas. TETAF's primary services are:

- providing surveys for facilities striving to continue or become designated as Level 3 and 4 trauma facilities,
- offering professional education, and
- raising awareness of and being an advocate for the Texas emergency, trauma and acute health care systems with various audiences.

TETAF is not a lobby organization, but as a 501(c)(3) is allowed by the Internal Revenue Service to participate in activities that could be termed "lobbying." However, by IRS definitions these possible lobby activities are limited to insubstantial amounts.

Attached please find a summary memorandum on TETAF's status as a 501(c)(3) provided by TETAF's legal counsel. I hope this clears up any questions regarding our activities. TETAF would like to assure you that any dollars received from RACs as TETAF subscription fees are used strictly for professional education and to support the trauma and stroke survey processes. TETAF can certify that no RAC funds have been or will be used for any activity that potentially could be construed as lobbying.

TETAF recognizes the risk that lobby activities might have to RAC funding by the state. Because of the understandably great concern of this issue to the RACs, **will TDSHS please confirm that state funding to RACs will not be interrupted if they choose to continue to subscribe to TETAF?** If the state has additional concerns or questions, I hope you will not hesitate to contact me.

TETAF appreciates the state's long-standing commitment to the Texas Trauma System. TETAF looks forward to continuing to partner with the state to provide the best possible care for all patients.

Sincerely,

Dinah S. Welsh  
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Jane Guerrero, TDSHS  
Texas Trauma Service area Regional Advisory Council Executive Directors  
TETAF Board of Directors