

Jane Guerrero, RN  
Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination  
Department of State Health Services  
PO Box 149347  
Austin, Texas 78714

Dear Director Guerrero:

In 2001, the 77<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 2446 regarding emergency medical services. Section 2 of this bill mandated GETAC to “develop a strategic plan for refining the educational requirements for certification and maintaining certification as emergency medical services personnel and developing emergency medical services and trauma care systems”, among other items.

The development of that Strategic Plan included objectives in trauma prevention. Traumatic injuries impact all Texans both personally and financially and directly impacts the ability to allocate scarce resources to treat and rehabilitate trauma victims. GETAC has identified that one means to prevent or reduce traumatic injuries is by the use of red light cameras.

In January of 2011, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety released a study that concluded red light cameras reduce the rate of fatal crashes by 24 percent in 14 large cities that introduced red light cameras between 1996 and 2004. An editorial opinion of The Washington Post on 5 February 2011 states “the evidence is incontrovertible that red light cameras save lives and could save many more if they were in wider use.” The Community Guide for Preventative Services has also recently added red light cameras as an evidence based strategy for trauma prevention.

GETAC endorses the use of red light cameras as a trauma prevention tool in the same way that seat belts, air bags and bicycle helmets are a trauma prevention tool. We encourage all Texas communities to consider adopting the use of red light cameras to reduce trauma death and injury to our citizens.

On behalf of GETAC,

Vance L. Riley  
Chair