



June 18, 2009

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Donald Lee

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Honorable Rick Perry  
Texas Governor  
Governor's Office  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: **Support for HB 3485 by Coleman/West, the County Efficiency Act**

Dear Governor Perry:

The Texas Conference of Urban Counties respectfully requests that you sign House Bill 3485 by Representative Coleman and Senator West. This bill will provide efficiency and reduce some of the costs related to providing government services.

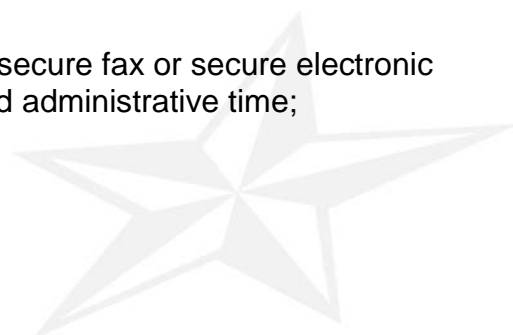
We are aware that some in the medical community are expressing concern about a provision related to rural county hospital districts. They are stating the provision damages the principles of tort reform and governmental immunity that county officials share with you. We are convinced this concern is misplaced and stems from a failure to accurately interpret the provision.

The hospital district provision provides rural hospital districts a tool for providing health care at the lowest possible tax cost. This concept is the heart of HB 3485 – saving taxpayers money.

The most important thing government must do for taxpayers is to manage the day-to-day affairs of providing services in the most efficient, effective and accountable manner that is reasonably possible. HB 3485 contains many provisions important to that goal. More than any other possible initiative – it is this careful attention to the details of government that truly benefits taxpayers. Losing all of the benefits to taxpayers in HB 3485 due to a gross misinterpretation of one provision would be a travesty for taxpayers.

Some of the provisions in HB 3485 that will save taxpayer money include the following:

- Allows warrants to be transmitted by secure fax or secure electronic mail, which will reduce paperwork and administrative time;



Honorable Rick Perry

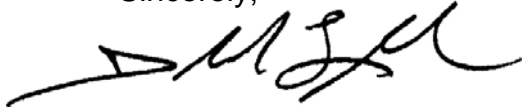
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- Allows electronic payment methods for jurors, which will speed payment and reduce staff time and paperwork in cutting checks;
- Permits the cremation of an unidentified pauper's remains, which is an unfortunate but real need in some of the border counties;
- Permits the use of video teleconferencing system for grand jury proceedings, which can reduce travel time for expert witnesses and law enforcement officers, resulting in a savings for the county; and
- Updates the statute on automatic payroll deductions to permit a county-maintained automated payroll system to be used to process payroll deductions, resulting in reduced administrative costs.

Thank you in advance for your leadership and consideration of the needs of counties and county taxpayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Lee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Donald Lee  
Executive Director