



## SB 2 Threatens Public Safety and Health Care

Dear Senators and Representatives:

SB 2 imposes arbitrary budget restrictions on cities and counties that endanger public safety and health care for all Texans.

**SB 2 makes maintaining the public health and safety infrastructure in a growing state more challenging.** Cities, counties, EMS districts, and fire districts rely on property taxes to fund first response and emergency care services. SB 2 weakens local decisions to expand a police department, buy new fire trucks, fully equip ambulances, improve first responder training, or provide trauma care. These funding restrictions threaten to degrade services, slow response times, and put lives at risk.

**SB 2 harms health care.** Public and private hospitals depend on additional funding made possible by local property taxes. Local funding contributes more to Medicaid hospital payments than state general revenue. Underfunded rural hospitals and other essential health services are dependent on local funds for support of critical programs like public health crisis response and trauma centers.

**SB 2 is an even more serious threat for rural Texas, where government entities work with a very low tax base.** Maintaining rural health and public safety net infrastructure (e.g., trying to keep a rural hospital open or trying to hire more officers in a small community with rising crime) will be more challenging as the ability to fund these essential items would be severely limited by the legislation's proposed revenue cap.

**SB 2 mandates a fundamental shift from the current system that empowers communities to identify and address local health care and public safety needs.** This approach works best for a large and diverse state. SB 2 undermines local decisions and erodes a community's ability to prioritize and address unique public health and safety challenges.

Please oppose SB 2 and misguided mandates that threaten public safety and health care.

Sincerely,

- Texas Police Chiefs Association of Texas
- Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas
- Sheriffs' Association of Texas
- National Fire Marshals Association
- Texas Fire Marshal's Association
- Texas Fire Chiefs Association
- Texas State Association of Fire Fighters
- State Association of Fire and Emergency Districts
- Texas EMS Alliance
- Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals
- Teaching Hospitals of Texas
- Texas Conference of Urban Counties
- County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas
- Texas Association of Counties