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**House Judiciary Committee
Testimony in Support of HB2198
February 10, 2015**

Chairman Barker and Committee Members,

Our associations were contacted by the proponents asked for input into the development of this bill. They have included our suggestions in the bill before you. In researching this proposal we found similar provisions already in place in several states. The concept behind it seems sound. As law enforcement professionals we expect people to call for medical assistance if there is someone in medical distress due to alcohol consumption. If a law such as what is proposed in this bill will significantly reduce the hesitation to do so, especially by a person who themselves have consumed alcohol and may be suffering from impaired judgment.

The only crimes which would not be prosecuted under this bill are found on page 1, lines 12 and 13. Those crimes are the possession, consumption, obtaining, purchasing or attempting to obtain or purchase liquor or beer by a person under the age of 21. In our decision to support this bill, it was critical to note it does not affect the crimes of providing alcohol to a minor or social hosting.

Furthermore, the bill withdraws the exception to prosecution if the person does not remain at the scene with the person in medical distress or if the person does not cooperate with law enforcement or emergency medical personnel. The provision on page 2, lines 36-38 is designed to relieve the officer or officer's agency from liability for not taking the person into custody in the event the person is later involved in an action resulting in an injury to themselves or others due to their own alcohol consumption. These conditions also were critical in our decision to support this bill.

We recognize there may be amendments necessary to clean up some details in the bill, but we urge you to recommend HB2198 favorably for passage.

Ed Klumpp
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