

## Press Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **SAFE SUPPORTS MULTI-LAYER REGULATIONS FOR TNCs**

### *Fingerprint background checks & clearly marked vehicles*

The SAFE Alliance, a partnership of Austin Children's Shelter and SafePlace, has been closely watching the ongoing debate regarding regulation of transportation network companies (TNC's) in Austin. Beginning in June 2015, we became the primary agency conducting forensic exams for teen and adult sexual assault survivors in Central Texas, which has put us in the unique position of meeting with and hearing the stories of mostly young women who have gotten into a stranger's vehicle - by themselves, often late at night, and sometimes under the influence, trusting that they will be delivered safe and sound to their destination. To date, our forensic nursing assault program has seen 6 survivors reporting they were sexually assaulted by their TNC drivers. Even one sexual assault is too many; 6 is reprehensible and it is our responsibility as a community and a city to protect our citizens whenever and wherever possible against the predators in our midst.

Our programs operate across our community with hundreds of paid staff and many hundreds more direct service volunteers, most of whom have undergone fingerprint background checks. We know that a fingerprint check is the most accurate way to do a background check, and we consider it our responsibility to provide as much assurance as possible that we aren't inserting predators into the midst of potentially vulnerable populations.

Whenever anyone, particularly someone alone at night, gets into a car with a stranger, they are vulnerable. We advocate that the City of Austin adopt a measure requiring fingerprint background checks for TNC drivers and that their vehicles be clearly and easily identified in some way.

stop abuse for  
everyone