



A collaboration among the University of Minnesota,  
University of Minnesota Physicians and Fairview Health Services

March 14, 2023

Dear Chair Liebling and members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of M Health Fairview Emergency Medical Services (EMS), I am writing to express concerns about HF 2736 and its potential negative impact on Minnesota residents and their ability to access to emergency medical services.

HF 2736 would remove the requirement that an EMS license holder must provide coverage to its entire Primary Service Area (PSA), which may include multiple cities and townships, often spread over multiple counties. Rural Minnesota, where distances between cities and townships are greater, would be disproportionately impacted. The provision would eliminate the guaranteed ability of EMS providers to cover all of Minnesota 24 hours a day, seven days a week regardless of the individual's ability to pay.

The bill may have unintended consequences on other parts of the health care sector. Hospitals maybe left without a local ambulance service to conduct inter-facility transfer needs. Under the bill, only one ambulance service would be "permitted" to provide service in a municipality; however, they are not required to offer inter-facility transports, which could result in a delay in hospital patient care.

Additionally, the bill would likely add costs to the health care system. Under HF 2736, an ambulance service would be required to apply for and renew a permit from each municipality it intends to serve. The bill would also require base of operations within every PSA boundary, requiring additional facilities, equipment, resources, and staffing. These requirements would cost time and money for both the municipality and the service and would likely inevitably increase costs for consumers.

As an alternative to HF 2736, it is recommended that the Committee support a facilitated work group, including EMS providers, fire chiefs, and municipalities, among others to address the numerous needs around EMS.

I urge you and this Committee not to move HF 2736 forward and instead allow an interdisciplinary group to develop shared solutions to ensure Minnesota residents continue to have comprehensive access to emergency medical services.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Edminson'.

Tom Edminson  
Chief of EMS  
M Health Fairview EMS

[mhealthfairview.org](http://mhealthfairview.org)

