



February 24, 2025

Representative Jeff Backer  
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: HF337 (Zelevnikar) – Establishing an ambulance operating deficit grant program & HF715 (Backer) – Increasing MA payment rates for ambulance services**

Chair Backer and members of the committee,

On behalf of Allina Health Emergency Medical Services (EMS), I am writing to express our support for HF337 (Zelevnikar), as amended by the A2, which would establish a grant program for licensed ambulance service that have an operating deficit and HF715 (Backer), as amended by the A1, which would increase MA payments for ambulance services by 10%.

Allina Health is a fully integrated health system that includes EMS, 11 hospital campuses, 65 primary care clinics, and 14 urgent care centers across the Twin Cities, and central and southern Minnesota. Allina Health EMS has been supporting patients for over 100 years and we are the proud service provider for over 1,000,000 residents across over 2,700 square miles and more than 100 communities in Minnesota. We employ more than 700 paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), dispatchers, special transportation drivers, maintenance and administration and support personnel. Our services include award-winning priority medical dispatch, 911 pre-arrival instructions, emergency and non-emergency ambulance response, the Greater Minnesota Ride program and wheelchair transport. In 2024, our vehicles travelled more than 4.3 million miles responding to over 100,000 calls across Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

We are thankful the legislature's efforts over the past few years to address the challenges that ambulance and emergency services providers face in Minnesota. However, more is needed to ensure that patients across Minnesota have access to the reliable, life-saving emergency care that they depend on. Current MA reimbursement rates threaten providers' ability to maintain and deliver services. In 2024, Allina Health's reimbursement rate for MA services was less than 40% of cost. It's crucial to the health and safety of our communities that the legislature continues to invest in Minnesota's EMS providers. For this reason, we ask that you support both HF337 and HF715, as amended.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to working with committee members to address all the ongoing challenges facing our EMS providers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Long".

Susan Long  
President, Allina Health EMS