



THE HENNEPIN COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF PARAMEDICS AND EMTs
1325 WINTER ST, SUITE 102. MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55413

03/20/2024

RE: Support for HF 4738

Dear Chair Klevorn and Committee Members,

I am the president of the Hennepin County Association of Paramedics and EMTs (HCAPE). HCAPE is the labor union that represents the Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), and Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs) of Hennepin EMS. Our members have proudly provided 911 ambulance response to 14 municipalities within Hennepin County for many decades.

I am reaching out to express our support for HF 4738, a bill we opposed just a few weeks ago. There has been significant work to address concerns on the structure of the Office of Emergency Medical Services since the introduction of this bill on March 7th, 2024. The authors of the bill have carefully incorporated feedback from stakeholders to address concerns regarding singular, unchecked leadership with no oversight. The structure now provides opportunities for input from traditionally marginalized labor and frontline workforce representatives, while still incorporating input from crucial stakeholders such as EMS medical directors and ambulance service providers. The amendments to this bill have created a structure that we feel earns the support of our board and the members we represent. We are excited to see its progression and the development of the Office of Emergency Medical Services.

I am grateful to see discussions around EMS elevated to the level of attention it deserves. While HF 4738 takes steps to correct the regulatory arm of EMS, more work needs to be done. Lawmakers must enshrine support for the ambulance services and most importantly the frontline workers who are truly the backbone of this profession. To ensure the sustainability of EMS, it must be recognized as an essential service, facilitating the allocation of funds towards training programs, workforce development, improving reimbursement rates, and the retention of current providers.

Respectfully,

Shane Hallow

President, Hennepin County Association of Paramedics and EMTs