



**March 14, 2023**

**Chair Liebling and HHS Committee Members**

**HF2376**

On behalf of Minnesota's small cities, which currently operate the majority of the 108 public ambulance service districts, we have significant concerns about the unintended consequences and negative impacts likely to result from this legislation, specifically on service districts in greater Minnesota.

While MN Small Cities understands the concerns raised by the Legislative Auditor's report regarding sustainability, outdated service areas, the need for changes to the EMSRB Structure, greater transparency, and additional data, **HF2376** as drafted does not adequately address the unique needs of small cities and rural communities in its effort to remedy those concerns.

The bill also fails to address challenges associated with providing service to townships (by nearby cities), which are often spread out geographically – and therefore many are split between different EMS providers. It appears that if this bill were to become law, cities would need to enter into individual contracts with each township it serves; this could prove challenging for small cities with limited staff and resources.

With many of our small cities already struggling to provide EMS services at cost, the real possibility of communities losing services entirely, due to further net operating loss, is very real. Many of the provisions of this bill, including the reporting, could significantly limit the ability of small cities to continue offering EMS services in greater Minnesota.

Instead, we strongly urge a task force of stakeholders - including small cities that currently operate ambulance services - to work collaboratively to suggest changes that will provide better service outcomes and create a financial model that reduces the likelihood of these necessary public systems operating at a net loss - or worse yet, failing.

We are committed to working to find solutions for transparency and services related to emergency services in communities throughout the state.

Cap O'Rourke  
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