



Developing Current and Future Leaders

Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association • www.msfc.org

February 24, 2025

Chair Jeff Backer
Minnesota House of Representatives
2nd Floor, Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Backer, Lead Biermann, Vice-Chair Nadeau, and members of the Health Finance and Policy Committee:

The Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association (“MSFCA”) represents the Fire Chiefs and their departments in your districts and across the state of Minnesota. We advocate at the legislature for policies that enhance the health and safety of not only our members, but the communities we serve. The delivery of high-quality, sustainable emergency medical services (EMS) is one of our top priorities. The EMS system continues to face challenges and needs your attention. We thank the committee for your dedication to this issue and appreciate your consideration of our thoughts.

In 2022, the Office of the Legislative Auditor (“OLA”) performed an [audit](#) of the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (“EMS RB”) and updated the audit in [2023](#) and [2024](#). We encourage each committee member to read these reports in detail. To summarize, the OLA recommended:

- Retain primary service areas for ambulance services, but it should restructure how they are created, modified, and overseen.
- Adopt more stringent statutory requirements for renewal of ambulance service licenses.
- Direct EMS RB to develop and enforce performance standards for ambulance services.
- Explore options for improving ambulance service sustainability in Minnesota, potentially through pilot programs.
- EMS RB board should improve its oversight of the executive director.
- Structural changes to EMS RB.

Some of these concerns were addressed in the 2024 session, with the creation of the Office of Emergency Medical Services to replace the EMS RB. We were proud to work with authors and



stakeholders last session to craft a bill that started to improve the landscape of EMS regulation within the state.

Yet, many significant concerns outlined in the OLA's report are still ongoing. We look forward to working with members of this committee and your colleagues to address these. Namely, the restructuring of how PSAs are created, modified, and overseen, the development of statutory language regarding more stringent license renewal requirements, and the improvement of sustainability of ambulance services. (See [p. 79-80](#) for complete list of recommendations.)

Accountability and transparency include enhanced data tracking, continued quality reporting, financial and grant accountability measures. As part of the Minnesota Emergency Delivery and Sustainability Task Force ("MEDS"), EMS industry professionals unanimously agreed that funding is a vital need, but it must come with accountability measures. In February 2025, the MEDS Task Force agreed that EMS legislation *"must prioritize accountability and transparency in the use of all EMS funding to ensure the system effectively services the needs of Minnesotans both today and in the future."* **Aid distribution should follow a formula-based approach to ensure PSA licensees experiencing the greatest need are prioritized, and funding is not localized to the metro area.**

Any ambulance service receiving public funding under the bills before you today, or any funding bills in the future, should be held to a high transparency standard regarding data on response times and other points OEMS determines will be helpful in evaluating performance. Licensees should be reporting their standard charges, the amount of public subsidy they receive, and payer mix (ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations).

The MSFCA hopes you will consider applying the MEDS Taskforce unanimous recommendations to all of today's and any future bills on EMS in Minnesota. This ensures the legislature is not picking winners and losers, battling with stakeholders, or passing bills with only some support. MSFCA encourages the committee to read the MEDS Taskforce recommendations attached and incorporate these recommendations into the bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Bullen". Below the signature, the words "FIRE CHIEF" are printed in a small, sans-serif font.

Eric Bullen / President
president@msfca.org

Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA)
800-743-0911 / 414-276-7704
www.msfca.org

