Dear Members of the MN state Legislature.

 I am writing this letter in opposition of HF2736 on behalf of the City of Lake City and Lake City Ambulance service. While I am sure you will hear plenty of testimony regarding the problems with this bill, I would like to focus on solutions. The good news is that it is not to late to go back to the drawing board. I feel that the legislature should place these decisions in the hands of people who know EMS. I recommend giving either the MN EMSRB the power, funding, and staffing to address PSA law issues, or create a State EMS Commissioner. If the later is chosen, The EMS Commissioner also needs the power and funding to address these issues. This Bill may work in the metro area but is detrimental to greater MN. As you are all probably aware the main issues EMS in the State of MN and the Nation are facing, is a lack of funding as well as recruitment and retention. If these issues are not addressed, no amount of legislation will fix the problem. The workforce has aged. The baby boomers are now largely out of the workforce and have become Patients in the healthcare system. Emergency rooms are overcrowded with long waits. It has become increasingly more difficult to get an appointment with a primary care provider in a timely manner. This has led to an increased use of the 911 system and EMS in general. People are honestly just looking for health care in a timely manner. Many people think that if they call an ambulance to take them to the hospital, it will lessen their wait time. Unfortunately, that is not how it works. This only increases the wait time for people who truly need 911 services. I believe this is part of the problem EMS in the metro is dealing with. There are a plethora of issues in regards to EMS as a whole that need to be addressed. I strongly believe giving the power and funding to either the MN EMSRB or creating a state EMS Commissioners Office is the right direction to go in. Please withdraw this bill. It is not the answer and will only contribute to the problem. Thank you for your consideration.

 Robert Benson NRP

 Assistant Ambulance Director

 Lake City Ambulance Service