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Dear Representative Dean and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services Finance,

**Re: HF 261 and SF 176, bills to create a certification for Community EMTs. The Minnesota Organization of Registered Nurses (MNORN) has concerns about the timing of these bills for the following reasons:**

In order to achieve the Triple Aim of Health care - providing the best care for the whole population at the lowest cost - we must have a well-coordinated health system, with clearly defined roles and relationships for all members within the health care team.

**There is much evidence in current healthcare literature about the critical need for care coordination.** The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) defines care coordination as follows:

"Care coordination involves deliberately organizing patient care activities and sharing information among all of the participants concerned with a patient's care to achieve safe and more effective care. This means that the patient's needs and preferences are known ahead of time and communicated at the right time to the right people, and that this information is used to provide safe, appropriate, and effective care to the patient."<sup>1</sup>

MNORN is concerned that there is already a lack of definition and role clarity in the relationship between community paramedics and the existing public health and home care system(s), as demonstrated in current pilot/demonstration projects. Historically, creation of new roles without attention to

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/prevention-chronic-care/improve/coordination/>

their relationship to existing healthcare roles has added to the confusion in the healthcare system we have today.

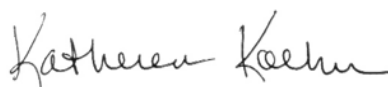
**MNORN believes attending to role clarification, including accommodation for collaboration and supervision/oversight is of paramount importance prior to increasing the Paramedic/EMT role in community health.**

While MNORN does not support HF 261 and SF 176, we do believe that Community Paramedics and Community EMTs, with clear coordination among existing home care and primary care providers, have the potential to help meet the health needs of our citizens in the community setting. As a constituent member of the American Nurses Association, the mission of MNORN is to advance the profession of nursing in Minnesota through advocacy, leadership development, education and mentorship. We look forward to working with you to further these legislative efforts.

Best Regards,



Jennifer Tucker MA, RN  
President, MNORN



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