

March 12, 2024

HF4738

I am writing in opposition to 4738. The Office of EMS would not solve the problems in EMS in Minnesota. Having an Office of EMS would only add to the problems in EMS in Minnesota. The last thing Minnesota needs for EMS is more problems.

The Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMS RB) is not even the same Board that the OLA reported on. Even before the Audit was released the Board took steps correcting problems. If you use the OLA Audit as your point of reference for this bill, you are looking at OLD data and it a disservice to the people serving on the Board.

EMS is a unique service that touches healthcare, public health, and public safety. EMS interacts with various entities

each day and serves many people and organizations along the way. The EMSRB represents many of these people and all of them are ensuring the safety of Minnesotans and our visitors to this State.

Patient care is at the center of what the EMSRB does. Ensuring the people that we are called to serve are being cared for. A multi discipline Board allows this to happen.

If you want to change the make up of the Board, I only see that the fire services is over represented on the Board. No one wants to address this, but we have multiple layers of the fire service on the Board.

What EMS in Minnesota needs is funding. We need funding to pay our providers what comparable healthcare providers make and funding to keep EMS operating within the State. Funding keeps the lights on.

Even during the high of COVID EMS in Minnesota still answered the calls and responded to many new situations. The EMSRB came along side EMS and quickly helped EMS out in the State.

The EMSRB is efficient and the work that the Board and Staff does now, could not be even closely replicated if moved to an Office of EMS. It would cost the State more money and would become bogged down in more politics. The EMSRB Board representatives donate hundreds of hours of work for FREE to Minnesota.

I am against this bill for many reasons.

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