



NDEMSEA Support of the Field EMS Modernization and Innovation Act (H.R. 2366)

“The Field EMS Bill”

WHEREAS, the North Dakota EMS Association understands the value Emergency Medical Services provides each day and the countless number of lives that are saved in response to medical and traumatic events. In North Dakota, nearly 130 agencies, both ground and air respond to over 75,000 calls annually, a call volume that has steadily risen each of the past five years.

WHEREAS, communities in our great state of North Dakota and across our nation, encompassing urban, suburban, and rural citizens all have an expectation that EMS is available 24/7 and will arrive within a reasonable amount of time with EMS professionals who are competent, reliable, efficient, compassionate, and prepared to handle the most basic transport, to a full disaster.

WHEREAS, the North Dakota EMS Association recognizes the multitude of problems that confront the EMS industry in North Dakota and across the country. Here in our state we face the persistent decline in volunteerism and challenges in staffing EMS units 24/7, even with paid personnel. An increase in long-distance transports to reach tertiary care centers only compounds the staffing shortages. A surge in no-pay transports adds an increased burden on services trying to survive on the fee-for-service pay model. Finally, unlike Fire and Law Enforcement there is no local mandate to provide for EMS.

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the support of the Field EMS Bill will positively affect EMS in the following ways;

- Align Federal Leadership for Emergency Medical Services,
- Promotes Innovation and Quality Through Field EMS Reimbursement,
- Modernizes Field EMS Capability,
- Improves the Evidence-Base of Care in the Field,
- Evaluate and test innovative models for delivery of pre-hospital care,
- Enhance data collection and research to improve patient outcomes and allow for more cost effective treatment.

THEREFORE, I Curtis Halmrast, President of the North Dakota EMS Association on behalf of the officers, directors, and members of the North Dakota EMS Association I do hereby offer the full support of the North Dakota EMS Association to advocate and promote the passage of the Field EMS Bill.

Dated this 30th Day of June, 2015.

Curtis Halmrast, President