3/14/2023

Elected Representatives,

I write this letter to you today in full support of HF2736 and the important changes that this bill can bring to the Emergency Medical Services system within the state of Minnesota. I write this letter not only as a public safety official, as the Assistant Fire Chief for the City of Roseville, but also as a fellow citizen concerned for those within my family who have unique medical needs and have accessed the 911 system for medical care as well as all those who have an emergency medical need. The current PSA law that governs who can provide ambulance transportation services in Minnesota has proven that while sometimes being one of the only states to do something (PSA law) puts you in a place to be cutting edge, that is not the case with Minnesota’s PSA law. Quite the contrary in fact, the current system prevents any municipality from having any say in how this critical, essential service is provided and worse yet prevents a local municipality from providing its own service to meet the unique and diverse needs of their community. While a local governing unit (LGU) can determine its police service, fire services, parks/public works, etc. the provision of this life saving service (ambulance transportation) is left in most cases (as is in the community I live in, and the community I serve in) to a private ambulance company delivery service in an extremely large service delivery area relying on a “once size fits all” business model regardless of the unique needs a municipality may have.

To further complicate the situation in Minnesota, lack of staffing and increased demand has only decreased the quality of service able to be delivered by these private companies, response times for an ambulance to arrive to a medical emergency have increased, imagine being in a first ring metro suburb waiting for an ambulance 20-30 minutes or in some cases even longer to assist you during your medical emergency and your LGU can’t do anything about this type of service. Along with longer response times, the need for mutual aid has risen dramatically by these ambulance companies putting significant stress on other companies as well as municipalities who already have control of their PSA and operate city run ambulance services.

In addition to the operational response problems currently being experienced under the current system, there is little to no oversight for any part of the delivery of services. These problems have been well articulated by the Minnesota Fire Chiefs Association and I would strongly encourage you all to make this issue a priority to bring control of this essential service to the LGU’s throughout Minnesota to assure services are provided the way the citizens of each LGU need.

Thank You,

Neil Sjostrom

Shoreview, MN