



AmeriCare Mobility Van Inc.

February 22, 2021

"Taking PEOPLE Further"

Chair Tina Liebling and Committee Members
Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Chair Liebling,

I am writing as a 27 year veteran of the NEMT industry based in Mankato. I have worked extensively, in a bi-partisan manner, with the Minnesota Legislature for over a decade. My NEMT company employees 55 hardworking drivers and office staff, and we serve 8 South Central Minnesota Counties on a daily basis, and provide approximately 400 rides per day.

The Governor's budget recommendation, as it relates to NEMT is short-sighted and full of haste. There is simply no way that this proposal can be operationalized from the provider perspective. The proposal changes too much too fast and strips the program of the integrity and the protections put in place by the NEMT Advisory Committee. This proposal, if enacted, will have a devastating impact to rural NEMT providers and will adversely affect the poor, disabled, elderly and vulnerable. No corner of Minnesota will be left unaffected.

The NEMT industry in Minnesota is far from recovering from the Pandemic. To move this legislation forward at this time will collapse an already frail and struggling industry.

I oppose the Governor's budget recommendations, and for the sake of your constituents that use NEMT we ask that you oppose this recommendation as well.

I am happy to discuss further, and answer your questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Pinske", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael R. Pinske
President/CEO