

March 10, 2021

The Honorable Rep. Tina Liebling, Chair
House Health Finance & Policy Committee
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for HF 1372 (Huot)– Appropriating Money for Grants to Regional EMS Programs

Dear Chair Liebling and Committee Members,

We are writing you today in support of HF 1372, which provides increased grant funding to regional EMS programs. The eight Minnesota regional EMS systems serve in a role that impacts the health and welfare of Minnesota citizens and are vital to the integrity of the state's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system. In 1985, the Minnesota Legislature responded to the need for coordination and improvement of the EMS system through the passage of the Minnesota EMS System Support Act.

Through the EMS System Support Act, the EMS regions receive funding to fulfill the seven statutory obligations outlined in [§144E.50, Subd. 2](#). However, the funding support supplied by the Minnesota EMS System Support Act has not kept up with the costs of operating a regional system to meet statutory obligations. Though there have been some highs and lows in funding availability since the 1980s, the general trend is a decreasing value in the funding available to the regional EMS systems. For example, in 1989, each EMS region annually received \$115,000; in 2018, each EMS region received \$79,931.

As funding continues to dwindle, the regional EMS systems must make cuts to programs which reduces the breadth and reach of the dollars. Fewer agencies are reimbursed, fewer individuals have access to training and the availability of regional personnel as a resource continues to decrease. The regional systems make every effort possible to meet the request to do more with less, but without an increase to the EMS support fund, the regional support system for EMS agencies, and the personnel that deliver care to Minnesotans in a time of need is at risk.

In the last year, the regional EMS systems have had new and unexpected burdens placed on them as they and the organizations they work with raced to respond to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The resources provided by HF 1372 are essential to support this work in an ongoing and sustainable manner and therefore we request your support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

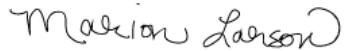
Sincerely,



Jill Rohret, Executive Director
Metropolitan Emergency Services Board



Adam Shadiow, Executive Director
Arrowhead EMS Association, Inc.



Marion Larson, Regional Coordinator
Central Minnesota EMS Region Joint Powers Board



Tom Vanderwal, Program Director
Greater Northwest EMS, Inc.



Mark Griffith, Program Director
South Central Minnesota EMS Joint Powers Board

Ann M. Jenson

Ann Jenson, Executive Director
Southwest Minnesota EMS Corp.



Don Hauge, Executive Director
Southeastern Minnesota EMS Joint Powers Board



Mark McCabe, Executive Director
West Central Minnesota EMS Corp.