



2021 SB 2133
House Human Services Committee
Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman
March 9, 2021

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I testify in support of Engrossed Senate Bill 2133 and ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

NDHA supports the bill because it promotes services provided by emergency service personnel such as community paramedics, community emergency medical technicians, and community advanced emergency medical technicians. It allows these professionals to provide some health services outside the traditional emergency response and transport roles. The goal is to improve access to care and avoid duplicating existing services.

We believe it would be beneficial for the state to prescribe minimum training, testing, certification, licensure, and quality review standards for emergency medical services personnel, including community paramedics, community EMTs, and community advanced EMTs; instructors; and training institutions. Emergency medicine services can include health assessments, chronic disease monitoring and education, vaccinations, laboratory specimen collection, medication management, and other interventions within the scope of practice for each licensure level. So, it will be appropriate to define the minimum training and testing to perform such services.

We also support allowing these health professionals to administer vaccinations as provided in the bill. Since the outbreak of the Influenza A (H1N1) virus in 2009, federal and state governmental agencies, and state and local public health departments have been encouraged to use non-traditional resources such as local EMS personnel to participate in the vaccination process. This initiative becomes even more important now with the COVID-19 pandemic, which presents an increase in the need for public health vaccinations.

We also support Medicaid coverage of these important services. Achieving widespread reimbursement for emergency services personnel services has been challenging in the past. Increasing coverage by private and public payers will increase the potential for emergency medicine personnel services to help lower healthcare costs and address access challenges.

In summary, NDHA supports the bill and asks that you give it a Do Pass recommendation. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President
North Dakota Hospital Association