

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: John Hayworth

RE: HB 2832

March 15, 2004

Upon reading HB 2832 that changes temporary certification from 1 to 2 years and does not require the individual to be affiliated with a particular provider. It could be assume it would not have a significant impact on the provider or attendants. If passed in the present form it will allow regulatory changes, already approved, in the reciprocity process followed by the Board of EMS for many years. This could have a significant impact on both providers and attendants. Although the Board uses the National Registry of EMT's exam for validation of our educational process, standard used in 44 other states. The Board will no longer recognize those Nationally Registered if educated outside of Kansas unless they have or obtain additional general education defined by the Board.

Increased educational standards are an assumed improvement of Kansas EMS. There is no national data available to support that assumption. The educational process, associates degree, currently required for Kansas EMICT (paramedic) is a standard that has been tried in other states and failed because they were no longer able to staff ambulances. To add to our new educational requirements, with admitted fewer students, and at the same time create barriers to national recruiting, when most services have openings, appears unwise. It is difficult to understand why The Board supports SB 351, which asks the state to fund individuals to attend initial courses of certification. The purpose SB 351 is to address a shortage in EMS providers, and at the same time HB 2832 would discourage Nationally Registered providers, who validated their education with the same test our students take, from moving to Kansas.

As one of the many employers who have openings for care givers I ask that the legislature not do anything that may contribute to our struggle to provide service to those in time of need.

I ask the committee to amend HB 2832 to recognize Nationally Registered attendants.