



**Testimony of Randy Leis, County Commissioner Meade County, Kansas
Before the Senate Committee on Local Government
In Support of Senate Bill No. 212
February 16, 2023**

Member Counties

Barber

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Barton

Clark

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Senate Bill 212, which would allow a non-medically trained person to drive an ambulance.

Ellis

Finney

Ford

I am Randy Leis, a Meade County Commissioner. I also serve as president of the Kansas Legislative Policy Group, a non-partisan group of 34 rural western Kansas counties that work collectively on issues of mutual interest.

Gove

Grant

Gray

Hamilton

During my years serving as a county commissioner, our small county of just over 4,000 residents has faced many obstacles, but one that remains an ongoing challenge is meeting the needs for emergency medical service workers and emergency medical service volunteers. Meade County is not alone in facing this challenge; rural Kansas and rural emergency medical services across the country are experiencing critical shortages of paid and volunteer-trained emergency medical service personnel. There is an emergency medical service workforce shortage in many states, and this is most pronounced in rural areas.

Harper

Haskell

Hodgeman

Kearny

Kiowa

Lane

Logan

Meade

The major challenges facing rural EMS are reimbursement, recruitment of paid and volunteer emergency medical technicians, and retention. Rural EMS systems face unique challenges due to low population densities and low call volumes.

Morton

Ness

Norton

If enacted, Senate Bill 212 would allow, in rural counties with a population of less than 10,000, a non-medically trained person to drive an ambulance. This would be helpful in addressing the lack of paid and volunteer emergency medical technicians. Let me be very clear: only the driver of the ambulance could be non-medically trained. Certainly, there would be an emergency medical technician or paramedic on-board for patient care.

Rawlins

Rice

Russell

Rush

Scott

Seward

If enacted, Senate Bill 212 would be a step in the right direction to help solve a problem and offer smaller rural counties some relief from the challenges of providing a driver for an ambulance.

Sherman

Stanton

Stevens

Thank you for your consideration.

Thomas

Trego

Randy Leis

Wallace

President

Wichita

Kansas Legislative Policy Group