

Dear Senator McGinn and Senator Bowers,

**SB212, an act concerning health and healthcare; relating to emergency medical services; staffing of ambulances; permitting an ambulance to operate with one emergency medical service provider in rural counties; amending K.S.A. 2022 Upop.65-6135 and repealing the existing section...**

It is vital for our small, rural town of 500 people to amend the current law to allow prudent, qualified drivers to pilot the ambulance while our qualified EMS staff attends to the patient. Rural Fire volunteers are willing to do "lift assist" for patients, as well as drive the ambulance. At present the firemen and firewomen are not permitted to drive the ambulance. Common sense tells me that if a volunteer fire person can operate a fire truck they are learn to operate an ambulance.

At present Miltonvale EMS has a total of 7 volunteers, with two working out of town during the day. Each member has a full-time job and gives up their free time to volunteer for the good of our community. Retirement and moving out of town have reduced the number of volunteers for the EMS.

Our local EMS directors have organized a class in the spring to be taught in Miltonvale. The directors raised funds through various community organizations and one individual that understand the importance of keeping our local EMS. That one individual had a husband that benefited from using the EMS more than once. EMS was credited for saving his life with their quick actions.

What does it look like if Miltonvale does not have the EMS? Concordia is our county seat, and their EMS would respond. The Concordia City Manager, Amy Lange, and the head of Concordia EMS, Eric Voss, met with the Miltonvale EMS, and city government members to explain that if Miltonvale does not have an EMS Concordia will have to respond. Concordia EMS has 3 members on call 24/7. If Concordia received a call they would have to have immediate back-ups to go to Miltonvale. At present Concordia does not have this capability.

Wouldn't you like to know if you are traveling through rural Kansas and have an accident that you wouldn't have to wait for an ambulance 45 minutes or more? We see lots of hunters in our area, and accidents happen. What is the alternative to waiting on the ambulance? Would you want to personally become the transportation for the accident victim?

Our EMS works hard with monthly meetings to educate and do hands on work to be an exemplary group.

Caryn McAdams is an AEMT, and is co-director of the Miltonvale EMS. Caryn works for me full-time as a P/C insurance agent. Caryn was out today, and the Rural Fire Chief, Richard Schultz, asked me to send an e-mail expressing the importance of passing the new amendment to SB212.

I would assume that most of rural Kansas would be in the same spot as Miltonvale is.

Thank you for your consideration.

Caryn looks forward to receiving the link for the meeting on Thursday.

Sincerely,

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Tammera S MARR

Ayres Insurance Agency LLC