

Senator McGinn and Senator Bowers,

Regarding SB212, I feel it is vital for our community of 500 and a volunteer EMS service to amend the current law to allow for non-certified people to drive an ambulance. We, just as other communities, struggle to find people willing to volunteer their time to fully staff our service. KSBEMS does have a similar statute which they say is rarely used, there is a reason. It's only for interfacility transfers, you have to request 30 days ahead, announce publicly that you're unable to fill the position, and only use medical personnel such as physician's assistant, respiratory therapist, nurse, etc. How does this make any sense? If a fireman/woman can drive a fire truck, I'm sure they are capable of driving an ambulance. I believe basic training such as CPR and Stop the Bleed should be given to these non-certified people.

Recently, Miltonvale EMS used a local fully staffed EMS service to fill in three shifts that we were unable to fill due to our small numbers of volunteers available. We are now facing fines for ensuring our community was covered in case there was an emergency. Instead of being allowed the flexibility, we are being punished because it goes against the statutes.

Due to our small numbers and unable to fill all our shifts, our options were to shut the service down completely or give up our license and go under another, larger EMS service which response time would be 45 minutes to an hour. What does that mean? It means if a person is having a heart attack, they may die before help arrives or have irreparable damage. If you are having a stroke, your window of time to get the appropriate medication, has now decreased or been completely eliminated. If a person falls and breaks a bone, they will lie there in pain for up to an hour. Would you be willing to let your loved ones go through this?

This decision to amend the current law, is not a step back as some have said. This will ensure that small EMS services are able to continue their vital services.

Sincerely,
Caryn McAdams
Miltonvale EMS Service Director