



Alicia (Schartz) Straub  
Senator, District 33

SB 212 - Ambulance Driver Requirements  
February 15, 2023

Proponent Testimony  
Oral In-Person with Written Testimony

Senate Local Government Committee

Honorable Chair McGinn, Vice-Chair Bowers, Ranking Minority Francisco, and Committee Members:

First, thank you for the opportunity to present to you, SB 212. Senate District #33, which I represent, consists of 12 Central, Southern, & Western, Kansas counties. Eleven of the 12 counties have populations under 10,000. These counties not only face declining populations, they also have aging populations. I know of at least two EMT's that are over 75 years old themselves. We greatly appreciate the services these knowledgeable and reliable certified EMS providers bless our communities with.

The issue of staffing ambulances with two certified EMS professionals was brought to me by two of my constituents from Rush and Pawnee counties. In fact, I introduced this same bill last year. Service providers in larger urban areas that have hundreds of thousands of people to recruit from, may oppose this bill. However, I know that there is great support for it from both the EMS providers and citizens in these small counties. While I drive back and forth across my district, I can only imagine how long it could possibly take for EMS to arrive at the scene of an auto accident. SB 212 would help these rural counties staff their ambulances with qualified EMS professionals, and a driver with basic first aid training or CPR certification to operate the ambulance. In fact, I personally would prefer a Nascar driver operate the ambulance if I was the patient they were transporting.

The rules and regulations imposed by the EMS Board, don't necessarily take into consideration the needs of rural Kansas Counties. We are not diminishing the quality of service in these counties by allowing one EMS certified professional and one driver to operate an ambulance safely and effectively. In fact, this could greatly improve the staffing capabilities and response times in these counties.

I respectfully request your support of SB 212, to better provide EMS services, and improve response times in these less populated counties.

Gratefully,  
Senator, Alicia Straub  
District #33