



**Testimony of Randy Leis, County Commissioner Meade County, Kansas
Before the Senate Committee on Local Government
In Support of Senate Bill No. 384
February 1, 2024**

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Senate Bill 384, regarding the required personnel to operate an ambulance.

I am Randy Leis, a Meade County Commissioner. I also serve as president of the Kansas Legislative Policy Group, a non-partisan group of 33 rural western Kansas counties that work collectively on issues of mutual interest.

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.

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.

If enacted, Senate Bill 384 would require, counties with a population of less than 50,000, only one medically trained person to be on board an ambulance. Allowing the driver of the ambulance to be non-medically trained. This would be helpful in addressing the lack of paid and volunteer emergency medical technicians.

If enacted, Senate Bill 384 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.

We encourage your support and thank you for your consideration.

Randy Leis
President
Kansas Legislative Policy Group