

Economic Affairs Interim Committee,

I am writing this letter to express my advocacy for Community Paramedicine. My experience includes thirty two years of EMS experience both as a provider, manager, and educator.

Because of the Board of Medical Examiners diligence and vision, Montana Emergency Care Providers are in a great position to provide services to patient in settings both “emergency” and non-emergency settings. Emergency Care Providers are licensed by the Board of Medical Examiners and possess a skill set that benefits patients and employers outside of the EMS arena.

Currently, when an Emergency Care Provider is employed outside of an EMS service agency, they are unlicensed in their non-EMS licensed position. There has been discussion of a rule change simply eliminating the “Emergency” with anticipation that the change would allow for Emergency Care providers to provide a service outside of the emergency setting. This would only be limited to care under an EMS service agency.

It would be great if the bill would allow an Emergency Care Provider to seek employment in any healthcare setting with the protection of their license. This would be similar to a physician, registered nurse, or radiology tech, using a scope of practice determined by the Board of Medical Examiners. This would also generate more jobs as the Emergency Care Providers would have more opportunity to use their professional license in various venues. It would also create a career path that would be less stressful and less strenuous, however, still utilizing the skills and knowledge acquired by experience.

As a paramedic I would not like to be in a position that would not have the oversight of the Board of Medical Examiners and medical director.

If this bill passes as written, I would believe that any patient care would be under the guidance of an EMS Service Agency. This precludes licensed Emergency Care Providers from being protected as an ED technician or in a clinic setting. Their employment is based on skills and experience and their Emergency Care Provider is not recognized in any setting outside of an EMS service agency.

It would be great if the bill would allow an Emergency Care Provider to seek employment in any healthcare setting with the protection of their license. This would be similar or a physician, registered nurse, or radiology tech. This would also generate more jobs as the Emergency Care Providers would have more opportunity to use their professional license in various venues. It would also create a career path that would be less stressful and less strenuous, however, still utilizing the skills and knowledge acquired by experience.

The Board of Medical Examiners has good discussion and provides protocols and resources to Emergency Care Providers that protect the citizens and visitors of Montana. As a Montana licensed Paramedic, I respectfully submit that our Emergency Care Provider license be recognized in any setting approved by the Board of Medical Examiners.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

William Torres Jr.

406-210-7669