



Kansas Region VI EMS Council

March 9, 2016

9:00 AM

Old Supreme Court Room, 346-S

To: House Federal and State Affairs Committee

Chair Rep. Jan Pauls, Vice-Chair Rep. James Todd, Ranking Minority Member Annie Tietze

Fr: Region VI EMS Council, Rod. E. Pace, Chair

Re: SB225 Interstate Compact for recognition of emergency personnel licensure – In Support

Dear Chair and members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

We, Region VI EMS Council, support SB225 for the following reasons:

Working on the borders of the state of Kansas has posed several challenges to EMS providers over the years, many of which are addressed in SB225. The boundaries of the state lines impose governance, different regulations and requirements for training/defined scope of practice and even variances in certification/training requirements. As the world of healthcare continues to evolve these regulations continue to change and evolve out of necessity. There is a heightened awareness of EMS providers to these changes as they stand to affect our abilities to provide quality, excellent care and appropriate response to those in need. Likewise, there is a necessitated heightened awareness by the service directors and administrators to ensure they manage compliancy and can be more assured of reimbursement for the services provided. In some instances, the Kansas based EMS agency may be the closest ambulance to the scene of a life threatening event or medical emergency, even though it is across the state line in to a neighboring state. Likewise, a Kansas resident may be in an area where the closest emergency responders are immediately across a state line. Scenarios such as these have the potential to continue to cause concern, increased management and potentially alter allowances of the closest appropriate resource to respond in a time of need. The compact will afford the necessary structure and framework to assure the core components are in place to protect the appropriate, timely response to the citizen(s) in need. That protection also extends to the assurance of quality, integrity and a legal ability to not only provide appropriate, lifesaving care; but to also be reimbursed for it.

The compact will also help to minimize costs to services and individual providers as it will alleviate the necessity for them to maintain multiple licensures and complete multiple inspection and regulatory compliance processes. All which carry both additional financial and a man hour costs.

More specifically to the southeast Kansas area that comprises Region VI and the six counties that border other states, the compact would enhance the relationship building, joint training, education, and interoperability efforts that have been on-going since the tornados that affected the area in 2011 and since. With several members of the Region VI EMS Council already actively serving on those multi-state projects, I can attest to the heightened focus and diligence put forth in the effort to meet the various states' regulatory requirements in those processes.

The compact has already been enacted in a few other states, four to this date. Being amongst the first tier, defined as one of the first ten states to join, also provides additional value to the state of Kansas. It would ensure we have a representative on the Interstate Commission wen the compact becomes effective, and as it matures over time. This would position Kansas to have a voice and an active seat at the table as regulation, guidelines and best practices are developed, vetted and introduced in to rule. A unique and limited opportunity as the world of healthcare continues to evolve with more and more expectations being placed on the Emergency Medical Services community to provide as the catchment system. Having a voice in policy and practice defining actions moving forward is extremely valuable for the citizens and EMS providers in Kansas.

In summary, we are supportive of the compact as it complements our mission, desire and need to "Serve those who serve." The compact will afford the providers protection they need to do their work when the call comes. It will maintain a necessary, primary focus on safe, effective patient care, and it stands to help reduce operational costs for many services located both inside and outside the state of Kansas. Providers who are positioned to provide emergency medical care to the citizens of Kansas at a moment's notice.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

Rod E. Pace

Rod E. Pace, NRP

Chair