

HB 2387 – Emergency medical services amendments

Chairman Ostmeyer and members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2387 – a bill that provides amendments to the current EMS act.

My name is Joe House and I am the Executive Director for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board. The EMS Board is the state regulatory agency responsible for oversight of the EMS systems - services and personnel - and educational programs pertaining to EMS. Our Board's purpose is to protect and promote the welfare of the citizens of Kansas through the efficient and effective regulation of EMS and to ensure that quality out-of-hospital care is available throughout the state.

Our agency mission is to promote EMS through the consistent application of laws; and to provide support for the ambulance services, EMS professionals, and EMS educational organizations in maintaining statutory and regulatory compliance.

As of December 31, 2015, the Board provides oversight of and provides support to 10,555 EMS attendants, 725 ambulances - both air and ground, 172 ambulance services, and 443 EMS educational institutions, to include 719 EMS educators.

HB 2387 makes amendments to the current EMS act to reflect changes in terminology, better reference defined terms, unify process, provide clarification to EMS personnel authorized activities as approved by our Medical Advisory Council, and to remove sections that are no longer applicable.

This Bill is a product of multiple meetings over the course of the last four years and meetings focused specifically on this bill that began in May 2013. Those meetings involved the six EMS Regional Councils, representatives from the State EMS Professional Organizations, county commissioners, attendants and ambulance service directors. This was further reviewed by the Board's Medical Advisory Council (a group of physicians representing EMS medical directors from rural and urban settings) and finally reviewed by a select Committee of Board members comprised of an EMS Medical Director, an EMS Service Director, a Kansas State Senator, a Hospital Administrator, and the Executive Director of the Agency. The content of HB 2387 was approved for submission to the Legislature during the December 5, 2014 meeting of the 15 member Board, by unanimous vote.

Thank you for your consideration of the amendments within HB 2387 allowing enhanced clarification, a more consistent approach in process, and the removal of sections no longer applicable. These amendments will assist the Emergency Medical Services Board in meeting its oversight responsibility. I would be happy to address any questions you may have.