



To: Kansas House Federal & State Affairs Committee

Date: March 6, 2016

RE: Support for SB 225, EMS Interstate Compact

From: MARCER, presented by Jason White, MARCER

Mid- America Regional Council (MARC) is the bi-state council of local governments serving nine area counties in the KS/MO area of Kansas City. MARC has a sub-committee regarding emergency medical services, (MARCER) consisting of over 35 area EMS agencies and 20 hospitals which collaborate through MARCER for various issues such as communications, disaster planning, hospital diversion, TCD, group purchasing and numerous policy initiatives.

MARCER supports the passage of SB 225 the EMS Interstate Compact legislation.

Emergency Medical Services functions often required personnel to have the ability to cross state lines. The Interstate Compact was developed in order to better establish the legal framework for these EMS activities to occur. Currently Colorado and Texas have adopted the Interstate Compact and Missouri has legislation filed (other eastern states are preparing to take action in 2016 as well). Once 10 states have adopted the Compact it becomes effective allowing Kansas EMS personnel the additional opportunities which the Compact creates.

Currently there are several areas in Kansas where Kansas EMS personnel regularly cross over the state line into other states providing EMS services. The Compact will help provide legal clarity to those actions. Kansas EMS personnel occasionally have the opportunity to assist with rangeland fires in the west and other disaster responses around the nation. The Compact will assist with the legal framework to allow for the protection of Kansas EMS personnel performing regular EMS functions but not in Kansas but in response to these larger emergencies.

The Compact also provides additional legal clarity for those EMS personnel who are providing services in Kansas from other nearby states when needed.

MARCER supports the passage of SB 225.