



“Unity Is Strength”

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To: Kansas Senate Committee on Federal & State Affairs

RE: SB 224

From: Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association, Jason White Legislative Liaison

Date: March 6, 2015

The Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association (KEMSA) is the professional association representing the paramedics, EMT's and ambulance service's serving the citizens of Kansas. KEMSA works on various regulatory and legislative matters as well as conferences and educational programs.

SB 224 provides the Board of EMS additional powers to use fines as an additional punishment option and to subpoena records from institutions other than ambulance services.

KEMSA has discussed the issues regarding fines and subpoenas on several occasions.

We believe that the option of fines will help make the disposition of Board disciplinary action more balanced. Presently the Board will consider action related to suspending or revoking the ability of the person to practice as a paramedic or EMT. This is a financial issue in most cases and often is not balanced related to the violation. A more direct system of fines could more clearly balance the infraction with a value determined for the punishment. We have participated in the Board deliberations regarding the feasibility of the use of fines and we are supportive of the legislation and we will be monitoring the Board disciplinary process upon passage of the legislation.

We also have been engaged in the discussion about extending the Board's power of subpoena. There have been occasions where information related to legitimate investigations was not provided by various health care institutions leaving disposition impossible. This creates a challenge to the primary role of the Board to strive to provide for the public safety through regulation of the practice.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact KEMSA.