



Kansas Region VI EMS Council

February 2, 2016

1030 AM

Room 144-S

To: Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Chairman Ralph Ostmeyer, Vice-Chair Jacob LaTurner, Ranking Minority Member Oletha Faust-Goudeau

Fr: Region VI EMS Council, Rod Pace, Chair

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

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs:

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/initial education 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. Likewise, there is a necessitated heightened awareness by the service directors and administrators to ensure they maintain compliancy and can be more assured of reimbursement for their services provided. In some instances, the Kansas based EMS agency may be the closest ambulance to the scene of a life threatening event, even though it is right across the state line. Scenarios such as this one have the potential to continue to cause concern, increased management and potential alterations in allowances to respond the closest appropriate resource. 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 a financial and a man hour cost.

More specifically to the southeast Kansas area that comprises Region VI, the compact would enhance the relationship building, joint training and education, and interoperability plans that are currently in place and receiving work for enhancement. With several members of the Region VI EMS Council actively serving on those multi-state projects, I can attest to the heightened focus and diligence put forth in an effort to meet the various state's regulatory requirements in the planning.

The compact has been enacted in a few other states to this date. Being amongst the first tier, defined as the first 10 states to join, also provides additional value to the state of Kansas. It would ensure we have a representative on the Interstate Commission when the compact becomes effective, and as it matures over time. This positions Kansas to have a voice and an active seat at the table as regulation, guidelines and best practices are developed and introduced in to rule. A unique and limited opportunity as the world of healthcare and of emergency medical service provisions continue to evolve to meet the ever changing needs of the people in the communities we have all chosen to serve.

In summary, we are supportive of the compact as it compliments 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 patient care, and it stands to help reduce operational costs for many services, located both inside and outside the state of Kansas.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rod Pace".

Rod Pace, NRP

Chair