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KANSAS EMS ASSOCIATION
6021 SW 29th St., Suite A PMB 359 | Topeka, KS 66614
Ph: 785.580.3459 | Fax: 888.760.6884 | www.kemsa.org

Unity Is Strength

Senator Carolyn McGinn
Kansas State Senate

Dear Senator McGinn:

March 21, 2017

RE: SB 186

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.

KEMSA has been active with a variety of EMS providers throughout the state of Kansas developing a Medicaid supplement program such as SB 186 seeks to define. A copy of the final report from the consultants KEMSA utilized is attached but the summary is that the ground ambulance services in Kansas can increase their Medicaid payments by over \$9 million a year, without any additional state dollars, through the development of such a program.

One of the primary considerations of the KEMSA effort was to try and make sure every ambulance service, no matter size or ownership would qualify.

SB 186 has raised some questions for KEMSA. The original version does not allow all ambulance service providers in Kansas the opportunity to participate. The primary model for SB 186, from California, envisions a program that is not readily accessible to volunteer services and non-government ambulance services. The KEMSA proposal was developed under the guidance of KDHE officials with the strict expectation that the program needed to be open to all ambulance services in Kansas no matter how big or little, public or private. KDHE has been engaged in this topic since the closing of the hospital in Independence when the City Manager sought assistance from his local legislators on how to approach the financial troubles brought upon the local ambulance service due to the increased calls for service.

Several states have developed similar Medicaid enhancement programs which are limited by law or have overly complicated program requirements. KEMSA has worked hard to make sure that the proposal (attached) that we have presented to KDHE is designed to allow all services to participate and minimize the requirements so that our many volunteer services could benefit.

The KEMSA proposal uses the Louisiana model as our example which is open to all services, even the smallest. The Louisiana program was approved by the federal Medicare officials several years ago and has a successful track record.


KEMSA requests that SB 186 be adjusted to assure the legislation does not create any impediments to easily including all ground ambulance services in any program approved by KDHE.

KEMSA also supports the possibility of Medicaid funding to support first response services as envisioned by SB 186. While no state in the nation has yet been approved by CMS (the federal agency) for funding of first response services which are not part of the local ambulance service, we understand that CMS is considering this concept.

KDHE has reviewed the attached KEMSA proposal and has determined that there is no need for additional state legislation (such as SB 186) in order for an IGT program to be instituted in Kansas for emergency medical services providers. The key is instead support by the EMS providers in the state, support by KDHE and approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

KEMSA does not oppose the passage of SB 186 as long as it does not create any impediment so that any Medicaid enhancement program established can assist all services in the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon Beck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the first name.

Brandon Beck
President
Kansas EMS Association (KEMSA)
brandon@kemsas.org