



# BILLINGS COUNTY

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**Billings County Commission**

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January 28, 2025

House Governmental and Veteran Affairs Committee

VIA email testimony to: [lcouncil@ndlegis.gov](mailto:lcouncil@ndlegis.gov)

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Billings County Commission, I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 1419, which seeks to add emergency medical services (EMS) workers to the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) Public Safety Plan. This legislation is long overdue, and we believe it is a critical step in recognizing the tireless efforts and sacrifices made by EMS personnel across our state.

For years, EMS workers have been at the forefront of responding to emergencies, providing life-saving care, and protecting our communities. They work under highly demanding conditions, often in hazardous environments, yet their efforts have not been adequately reflected in the benefits they receive. By including EMS in the Public Safety Plan, we ensure that those who serve on the front lines of emergencies are afforded the same retirement benefits as their counterparts in law enforcement and fire services.

In Billings County, we rely heavily on the dedication and skill of our EMS teams, who are often the first responders in critical situations. We believe that adding EMS workers to the Public Safety Plan will not only provide them with the retirement benefits they deserve but also help us attract and retain the talented professionals who make our communities safer.

The challenges faced by EMS personnel are unique and often underappreciated. It is our hope that the committee will act in support of this much-needed change. It is time to recognize EMS workers as essential members of the public safety team in a meaningful and lasting way.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We appreciate your consideration of this bill and look forward to seeing its progress through the legislative process. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dean Rodne".

Dean Rodne

Chairperson, Billings County Commission

Billings County, North Dakota