

Testimony
Senate Bill No. 2100
Senate Workforce Development Committee
Senator Wobbema, Chair
January 9, 2025

Chairman Wobbema, and members of the Senate Committee, I am Chris Price with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2100.

For over a decade, the Department has collaborated extensively with stakeholders across the state to develop and refine the rules governing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) operations and EMS personnel—codified as Article 33-11 and Chapter 33-36-01, respectively. These rules were created to align with industry standards and are grounded in evidence-based practices. Importantly, they were not created in isolation but were thoroughly vetted and ultimately endorsed by the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, representing a broad spectrum of expertise and interests within the EMS community.

A key provision of these rules, Paragraph 5.d.1. of Section 33-36-01-03, mandates that EMS instructors be affiliated with a licensed EMS training institute. This requirement was included at the direct request of the North Dakota EMS Association as part of their *EMS Vision 2025* initiative. This document emerged from an exhaustive, yearslong outreach effort aimed at addressing critical challenges within the EMS field and devising actionable strategies to overcome them.

Senate Bill No. 2100 seeks to undermine this carefully considered provision by removing the requirement for Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) instructors to maintain affiliation with a licensed EMS training institute. The change invites different instruction, which could lead to differing response protocols among EMS providers, which would be detrimental to the health and safety of North Dakota residents.

By opposing the bill, we are maintaining a uniform best practice instruction to EMS providers, which protects the health, safety, and welfare of North Dakota residents.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.