

Testimony Senate Bill No. 2100

Senate Workforce Development Committee

Senator Wobbema, Chair

January 9, 2025

I am writing in support of Senate Bill No. 2100.

For the past 20+ years, I have held a current North Dakota teaching license and have been a NREMT. I have also completed a North Dakota EMS Instructor Course and have attended all the required refresher courses. I have volunteered my time as a member of the NDEMSEA as well. I was honored to be recognized as the 2019 NDEMSEA EMS Provider of the Year. In the past, I have combined my passion for education and EMS by teaching numerous initial entry EMR courses in LaMoure. Many of my students have been firemen, high school students, and individuals who live in rural areas. I worked very hard to provide high quality education with many hours of hands on practice. All my students passed the state's written test and the skills test. These individuals are **extremely important** in our EMS system, and we absolutely need EMRs in rural North Dakota if we want to provide the highest level of prehospital care to all we serve.

I cannot imagine an argument against having rural firemen trained as EMRs. You have no idea how helpful it is to have firemen at the scene of a crash able to help provide medical care to patients. I also cannot imagine an argument against having high school students introduced to EMS and the healthcare field – many of my high school students are now studying to be nurses and paramedics in our state and some are actively serving in medical provider roles as members of the North Dakota Army National Guard. And I also cannot imagine an argument against having an individual living in a rural area trained as an EMR. How can it be negative to have a person trained with medical knowledge and basic medical equipment willing and able to respond to a scene prior to an ambulance service to provide patient care, often to a patient who is a neighbor, family member or friend who lives down the road and it can sometimes be over 30 minutes before an ambulance arrives due to the distance they ambulance must travel.

Now we must imagine what it is like **without** these people trained in the LaMoure area. Why? Because of the recent change, I am no longer able to teach EMR and/or EMT courses because I am not affiliated with a training center and there is no training center in our area that offers an EMR course. I have contacted two training centers and inquired about joining their staff and neither center has been able to provide me with any type of direction or even

an application. I have numerous individuals from southeast North Dakota interested in joining EMS as an EMR and it frustrates me that I am unable to help them become trained, even though I have the knowledge and education to do so and we obviously need more EMS volunteers in our rural communities!

I completed all the necessary paperwork on time, kept up on my continuing education, taught courses with my heart and soul, and took great pride in being able to provide our community with more trained EMS personnel. I would absolutely love to be able to continue to educate and inspire people of all ages to pursue a volunteer position on an ambulance service in rural North Dakota. You can help make that happen again. Please consider passing SB2100.

Kelli Just

NREMT

Berlin, ND