



March 6th, 2025

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: Support for SCR 4018

Chairman Schauer & Committee Members,

My name is Corey Johnson. I am the Chairman of the NW Region Board of Directors for the ND EMS Association and a member of the EMS Association's EMS Memorial Committee. I also serve as the Assistant Chief of Operations for the City of Williston Fire Department.

I am here today to ask for your support in recommending SCR 4018 as a "do pass" to the House floor. SCR 4018 directs the Capitol Grounds Planning Commission to establish an Emergency Medical Services Line of Duty Death Memorial at the Capitol.

EMS plays a vital role in providing Public Safety services to the citizens of North Dakota. Like law enforcement and firefighting, EMS is an inherently dangerous profession with some making the ultimate sacrifice serving their community. The ND EMS Association has identified the establishment of this memorial as a high priority for many reasons. First, this memorial will serve as a testament to the commitment and sacrifice made by those no longer with us. This memorial will provide honorable recognition and serve as a place where their legacy will live by providing a place for family, friends, and fellow EMS providers to honor their memory. Second, this memorial will provide an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of EMS and educate the public.

The Williston community felt the effects of the tragedy of November 18th, 2018, when three EMS providers lost their lives in the line of duty. On the evening of November 18th, 2018, Bismarck Air Medical was dispatched to Williston to transport a premature newborn child. The crew never arrived because their medical aircraft suffered structural failure while in flight. Our state lost Air Medical Pilot Todd Lasky, Paramedic Chris Iverson, and Nurse Bonnie Cook that day. The Williston Fire Department will forever remember the sacrifice made by this crew in their service to our community. We strongly support the establishment of the memorial proposed in SCR 4018 to recognize their service to our state and all others who have made this sacrifice.

Thank you for your time and efforts in considering this important piece of legislation. I respectfully ask for your support by recommending SCR 4018 as a "do pass" to the House floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corey A. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Corey A. Johnson, Assistant Chief of Operations
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