

In Opposition of Senate Bill 2033

Before the House – Human Services Committee,

March 10, 2025

Chairman, Representative Ruby, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 2033. My name is Kimberly Robbins, and I am the LaMoure County Emergency Manager and 9-1-1 Coordinator. I also have maintained my North Dakota Emergency Medical Responder training and volunteer as a driver for the Community Volunteer EMS of LaMoure. I feel thankful to work with the professional individuals that serve as public safety telecommunicators as well as serve alongside the dedicated volunteers of a local ambulance service. Thus, I would ask you to oppose Senate Bill 2033 as this bill has unclear definitions and new authority of the Department of Health and Human Services and the program implementation costs are funded by local ambulance services.

The Bill creates new authority of the Department of Health and Human Services to define “Distressed Ambulance Service”. The Bill references an ambulance may be declared distressed if “indicated a substantial likelihood of failure to respond to requests for service.” Without further information, this is a subjective definition by the Department of Health and Human Services. Specific guidance for local government and ambulance services is needed.

Secondly, the Department of Health and Human Services will assign a coordinator to develop, implement, and monitor an emergency medical services plan. However, this plan does not specifically state Public Safety Answering Points, local 911 coordinators, nor Emergency Managers are included. In many instances, an ambulance may serve in two or more Public Safety Answering Points and counties and this plan does not specifically state that Public Safety Answering Points or local 911 coordinators or emergency managers are even included in the plan or planning process yet the plan will directly affect EMS response areas.

Finally, the bill states that the ambulance service will reimburse the department for all costs associated with measures taken to administer the program. In some areas, this cost will directly come back to county government as the unknown costs from the “Plan” that is suggested, meeting costs, public notices and overall time burden to county government will be the responsibility of the ambulance service or again the local governing agency of the ambulance.

Therefore, I ask you to oppose Senate Bill 2033.

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