



Testimony
Senate Bill 2033
House Human Services Committee
Monday, March 10, 2025
North Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association

Good afternoon, Chairman Ruby and members of the committee. My name is Adam Parker. I am a member of the North Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association, and volunteer to co-chair their Advocacy Committee. My day job consists of consulting with and providing legal representation to ambulance services across multiple states. The issues we face regarding EMS in North Dakota are not unique, but one thing I have noticed in my work in other states is North Dakota is far more proactive in addressing challenges faced by EMS. The Association **strongly supports** SB 2033.

Last session, the legislature passed an important bill that required the organization of ambulance districts for many ambulances across North Dakota. That bill helps to ensure local accountability of ambulance services and to allow local communities to develop an EMS system in their area that is sustainable and meets the community's expectations. An interim committee continued the discussion and there was a desire to have additional protection for situations where there is a local agency failure.

This bill accomplishes several critical goals:

- 1) It establishes a process the department must follow when concerns regarding compliance or public safety are identified.
- 2) It requires ambulance services to respond to the department. It allows for an ambulance service to request, and the department to grant, waivers. This is an important provision that will allow local communities flexibility to innovate in system design when challenges arise.
- 3) When the local EMS agency has failed, the provisions protect the neighboring ambulance services from enduring hardship and protects the public by enabling the department to sustain response in the area while a long-term plan is developed.
- 4) Balances the priority of local control with the Department's responsibility as the licensing agency to protect the public, by requiring a collaborative approach to developing, approving, and implementing a plan to address concerns.

The EMS Association **strongly supports** the creation of a distressed ambulance service program to ensure we have a strong EMS system and to mitigate the impact of any local EMS agency failure on the neighboring EMS agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.