

Grenora Ambulance Service

March 9, 2025

Support for SB 2100

Chairman Ruby & Committee Members,

On behalf of Grenora Ambulance, I would like to express our strong support for Senate Bill 2100. We are writing to highlight the significant challenges we are facing as a rural EMS service in light of the recent changes to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) training regulations. These changes have placed an undue financial burden on our department and threaten our ability to recruit and train new EMS providers locally.

As you may know, the new administrative rules enacted in April 2024 require that all initial EMS certification programs be conducted through licensed EMS training institutes. While we understand the intent behind these changes, which is to improve oversight and the quality of education, it has become increasingly difficult for small, rural departments like ours to keep up with these requirements. The cost of sending our personnel to out-of-town training institutes is simply unaffordable for us. It creates a significant financial strain on our department and our community, and the added travel and training expenses are unsustainable.

Grenora Ambulance has always prided itself on being able to train our own EMS providers locally. This system has been both effective and efficient in serving our community. However, with the recent regulatory changes, we are now forced to look outside our community for training, which is not only costly but also disrupts the availability of our staff during the training process. This issue is further compounded by the insufficient funding available through the EMS training grants, which have not kept pace with the rising costs of regionalized training programs.

SB 2100 represents an essential step toward restoring local control over our training programs, while ensuring that rural EMS services like ours can continue to provide quality care without the financial strain of sending personnel away for training. With the right support and resources, we can maintain a local, accessible, and cost-effective training model that serves our community's needs and helps us to recruit and retain qualified EMS providers.

We respectfully urge you to support SB 2100 and recommend its passage. The future of rural EMS services depends on our ability to train locally, and this legislation will help ensure that we can continue to provide the highest level of care to our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brittney Eckart,

MBA-HCM, BSN-RN

Grenora Ambulance Service Manager

GrenoraEMS@gmail.com

205 Main St. PO Box 234

Grenora, ND 58845

Office: 701-694-6402

Personal: 701-770-5359