



2025 HB 1597
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
March 18, 2025

Madam Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I am here to testify in support of Engrossed House Bill 1597. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

We support the bill because it renews state financial assistance to eligible ambulance service operations. Several of our hospital members own an ambulance service. The bill provides financial assistance to smaller ambulance operations. The formula provided in the bill for funding considers factors such as average run volume, budget, cost per ambulance run, and local tax revenue. It focuses funding on smaller operations and provides that an ambulance operation is not eligible to receive this funding if the operation provides more than 800 runs per year.

Some Critical Access Hospitals that operate their own ambulance operations and provide less than 800 ambulance runs per year often cannot cover the cost of providing the ambulance service and they must rely on tax revenue and financial assistance such as that provided in this bill in order to continue providing ambulance services in their communities. Without such financial assistance, some of these ambulance operations may not survive.

In summary, we support the funding this bill provides and the intent to facilitate the maintenance of a reliable EMS system in rural areas of our State. We hope that you will give the bill a **Do Pass** recommendation. I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President
North Dakota Hospital Association