



Developing Current and Future Leaders

Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association • www.msfc.org

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Chair Rest, Senator Weber, & Members of the Senate Taxes Committee;

The Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association ("MSFCA") appreciates the opportunity to provide additional comments to the discussion on SF3886.

As a result of a House hearing during the 2023 session, the Minnesota EMS Delivery and Sustainability ("MEDS") Task Force was established on a voluntary, unfunded basis. The creation of the MEDS Task Force demonstrates to the Legislature, and the public, that industry professionals have joined together, despite varying Legislative priorities and solutions, to ring the alarm on the dire situation we find ourselves in with EMS delivery and sustainability across the State of Minnesota. Per the League of Minnesota Cities' news release, the goal of the MEDS Task Force was:

"... to establish a task force with specific membership to "analyze the coordination of responses to emergencies, non-emergencies, community-based care, the regulatory structure detailed under Minnesota Statutes, section 144e, financial stability of the EMS system, review of the ambulance primary service area statute, and the level of governmental input into the licensing process and level of care as outlined in the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) Report Recommendations."

While the Task Force has focused on funding items as the immediate need, the MSFCA remains committed to analyzing and making recommendations on the reform items. As the legislative bodies consider funding and reforms, we would like to make the MSFCA's continuing position clear.

The MSFCA supports the current request for up to \$125M in one-time funding. Minnesotans depend on having dependable, and viable, ambulance service and we support prioritizing one-time, emergency, funding to save those services on the brink of closing. In addition to emergency funding to ensure ambulance services do not close, we support funding to create change and innovation to the current EMS system. It continues to be recognized that there is no "quick fix" or a "one size fits all solution" to this statewide issue.



Prioritizing emergency funding while creating more sustainable responses for all Minnesotans is the first step towards a long-term solution. As with any taxpayer-funded grants from the State, there must be accountability measures, such as auditing measures, data collection, and reporting requirements.

In order for the MSFCA to support any additional requests for funding, those requests must be paired with system changes, such as the recommendations outlined in the OLA report, to create accountability and input to EMS delivery.

We have reservations about putting forward a funding request with minimal uniform data to support the request. We've ask for strong commitment of the MEDS Task Force to follow through with the stated goals regarding accountability and recommending system changes this year, in line with the OLA report recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Bullen". To the right of the signature, the words "FIRE CHIEF" are printed in a small, sans-serif font.

Eric Bullen / President

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