



THE HENNEPIN COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF PARAMEDICS AND EMTs  
1325 WINTER ST, SUITE 102. MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55413

03/04/2024

Chair Rest and members of the Senate Taxes Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony to the Senate Taxes Committee on behalf of the Hennepin County Association of Paramedics and EMTs (HCAPE). HCAPE is the labor union, and exclusive representative, for the paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), and Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs) of Hennepin EMS. Hennepin EMS serves a primary service area of 266 square miles to 14 municipalities in Hennepin County.

Over the last several months, the EMS Task Force has traveled across the state holding hearings to hear from EMS providers on the challenges facing their services. These challenges are uniquely critical in rural and greater Minnesota where many services are facing extreme difficulties delivering services. These challenges are fueled by deficiencies in reimbursement rates, lack of workforce development funding, increasing operational costs, and unsustainable staffing.

I am writing to you in support of the Emergency Ambulance Aid Bill (SF 3886). SF 3886 will provide vital emergency funding to keep EMS agencies in rural areas open and operating. This funding will allow these agencies the capacity to provide services while sustainable, innovative, long-term solutions are developed and implemented in these areas.

It is important to note that our support does not provide any direct benefit to our members or our service. However, we feel it is essential that we support legislation that aims to ensure communities throughout the state have access to quality EMS. This legislation creates a bridge to long-term funding solutions and service model improvements that will support EMS providers across the state.

Our industry has long gone unnoticed, unrecognized, and underfunded. We believe strongly that now is the time for the state to invest in the essential work our members and EMS providers across Minnesota perform every day.

Respectfully,

Shane Hallow

President, Hennepin County Association of Paramedics and EMTs