



Senator John Marty  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3235 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Marty and Committee members,

**Re: Support for EMS provisions in S.F. 2669 (Wiklund)**

On behalf of the Minnesota Ambulance Association, I am writing to express appreciation for the inclusion of many provisions in S.F. 2669 to strengthen Emergency Medical Services (EMS) across the state. The workforce provisions and ambulance operating deficit grant program are critical to the sustainability of the industry.

We would like to share our strong support for the adoption of the MCO Assessment on Health Plan Companies (Article 6, section 25) which would support a Medicaid rate increase for ambulance services. This initiative is not only a vital step toward addressing the growing financial challenges faced by ambulance providers across the state but also a necessary measure to ensure equitable access to high-quality emergency medical care for all Minnesotans, particularly our most vulnerable populations.

Ambulance services are a critical component of Minnesota's healthcare system, providing life-saving care and transportation in moments of greatest need. However, the current Medicaid reimbursement rates fail to adequately cover the actual costs of delivering these services. This persistent underfunding places significant financial strain on ambulance providers, jeopardizing their ability to maintain operations, invest in equipment and training, and meeting the increasing demand for services in both urban and rural communities.

The proposed HMO surcharge represents a practical and sustainable solution to this issue. We urge you to include the MCO Assessment on Health Plans in the final Health Omnibus Bill as an investment in the health and safety of all Minnesotans.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,  
Michael Juntunen, President