



March 19, 2025

Re: SF 1080

Dear Senate Health and Human Services Chair, Sen. Melissa Wiklund and Committee Members:

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), on behalf of Minnesota's 87 counties, **supports SF 1080.**

AMC has a strong interest in ensuring uninterrupted and quality ambulance services for every community in Minnesota. Operating costs for EMS services have risen and reimbursement rates have not kept pace. Moreover, workforce and staffing challenges have compounded this problem and created an ongoing deficit statewide. Last year's generous emergency funding has made a difference, helping keep rural services afloat in the short run.

However, that funding was a stopgap measure to address immediate funding shortfalls statewide and buy time. The goal was for the Legislature and advocates to return to the table and develop a sustainable funding model that would bring an end to this crisis. AMC believes that SF 1080 accomplishes that goal.

Counties are most concerned that, absent a state or federal funding solution, the financial burden will fall to local governments. Some counties have already stepped up to help struggling EMS providers, but not all counties can afford to do this, nor should they be asked to.

EMS providers offer essential and lifesaving care to all Minnesotans. Without this funding, we risk closure or reduction in EMS services, which is something we cannot afford. Again, AMC strongly encourages you to **support SF 1080.**

Sincerely,

Nathan Zacharias, Technology Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties