



March 18, 2025

Dear Senate Chair Wicklund and Committee Members ~

MN Small Cities advocates on behalf of the over 700 Minnesota cities with a population under 5,000. There are over 90 small cities that operate Public Service Areas in Minnesota.

We are supportive of the three bills being heard today in committee. All will provide much needed support to both our services and our ability to train and retain trained staff.

S.F. 1326 Hauschild Medical assistance payment raise increase for ambulance services

S.F. 1080 Hauschild Ambulance operating deficit grant program establishment

S.F. 1132 Hoffman Ambulance service training and staffing grant program establishment

Over the last few years, these communities have seen growing issues in EMS worker retention, coupled with insufficient reimbursement rates that do not cover the costs to operate. Local officials are facing difficult decisions about providing a critical service while maintaining a budget that serves the community's needs.

MN Small Cities has been an active participant in these discussions and will continue to participate in ongoing discussions with a broad range of stakeholders to identify the short and long-term needs to maintain a successful long-term operations model that is reflective of the diverse manner of services and needs our state has.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Cap O'Rourke
Executive Director

Mn Small Cities