

April 17, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Alaska State Legislature Alaska State Capitol Juneau, AK 99801

Subject: Letter of Support for HB 27 - Medical Care for Major Emergencies

Dear Honorable Members,

As a leading provider of critical care air and ground medical transport services across Alaska, Guardian Flight Air and Ground Ambulance is writing to express our unwavering support for House Bill 27 (HB 27), "An Act relating to medical care for major emergencies." We believe this legislation will significantly enhance the quality and efficiency of emergency medical services (EMS) throughout the state, ultimately saving lives and improving patient outcomes.

At Guardian Flight, we witness firsthand the challenges of providing timely and effective care in Alaska's vast and diverse landscape. Delays in treatment for time-sensitive emergencies such as stroke and heart attack can have devastating consequences. HB 27 directly addresses these challenges by fostering a more coordinated and standardized system of care for all Alaskans.

We are particularly enthusiastic about the bill's focus on:

- **Standardized Protocols:** The development of standardized training programs for ambulance and first responder services is crucial. A cohesive, statewide approach to emergency medical care, based on nationally accredited standards, will allow our teams to seamlessly integrate with other providers, ensuring consistent and optimal patient care from the point of first contact to definitive treatment.
- **Enhanced Communication:** The emphasis on improving communication between EMS providers and receiving hospitals is paramount. Accurate and timely communication about a patient's condition enables hospitals to prepare appropriately, streamlining the transfer of care and minimizing delays in critical interventions.
- **Statewide Guidelines:** The establishment of statewide guidelines, helping medical professionals determine the most appropriate course of action, will greatly improve the efficiency of the EMS system. Faster transport to appropriate treatment facilities will mean better outcomes for patients in the long run.

Guardian Flight's experience has demonstrated the immense value of coordinated, standardized systems in emergency response. We have seen firsthand how these systems, when implemented effectively, create a "win-win" situation for both patients and providers during major emergency events. HB 27 seeks to replicate the success of the existing Trauma Center program by expanding its principles to stroke and severe heart attack care.

In closing, we firmly believe that HB 27 is a vital step towards ensuring that all Alaskans have access to the highest quality emergency medical care, regardless of their location. By supporting this legislation, you will be investing in a healthier, more resilient Alaska. We urge you to vote in favor of HB 27.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


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