



Chugiak Volunteer Fire and Rescue

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Honorable Senators:
Shelley Hughes
Lora Reinbold
Josh Revak

Honorable Representatives:
Cathy Tilton
Ken McCarty

32nd State Legislature
Juneau, AK. 99801

RE: SB 21

March 3rd, 2021

Honorable Senators and Representatives- Once again I come to you asking for your support of legislation to move the licensure of paramedics from the Alaska Board of Medical Licensure to the Department of Health. We, at CVFRD assert this legislation will improve the efficiency of maintaining our EMS provider's professional licensure by placing all levels in one state office.

Over 6 years ago, and for a variety of reasons, NHTSA recommended that paramedics be brought under authority of EMS in DHSS to increase system coordination, patient safety, and training standards. Currently, there are no EMS subject matter experts or disciplines represented on the State Medical Board which leaves EMS interest unrepresented. Furthermore, the Medical Board unanimously voted to approve the transfer of paramedics from their purview to the Section of EMS, at a Feb 2019 meeting.

This effort is widely supported by my colleagues in the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association and would be appreciated by that group as well as the 12 paramedic members of the Chugiak Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company.

Tim Benningfield
Tim Benningfield, Chief