



Alaska Council on Emergency Medical Services (ACEMS)

c/o Alaska Department of Health, Division of Public Health,
Section of Rural and Community Health Systems

Box 110616

Juneau, AK 99811-0616

24 February 2023

Chair:

Marvin Dean Cox
Consumer Representative

Vice-Chair:

Janet Shepard
Hospital or Native Health Care
Organization Administrator

Secretary:

Wilma Vinton
Consumer Representative

Officer-at-Large:

Ben Knowles Prehospital
Emergency Care Provider/Off
Road System

Commissioner Heidi Hedberg
Alaska Department of Health
3601 C Street, Suite 902
Anchorage, AK 99503-5923

Subject: EMS Medical Directors Protection from Legal
Discovery/EMS Medical Director Liability Coverage

Dear Commissioner Hedberg,

Cc: Chairman Sumner and Members of the Labor &
Commerce Committee,

EMS is evolving as a versatile and mobile community health- care resource, integral to regional care systems that treat chronic ailments and prevent acute illness and injury. Alaska's EMS must be a people-centered system including processes, protocols, and practices designed to provide the best outcome for individuals and communities. EMS practitioners must deliver care guided by best practices. Peer review and quality assurance of these practices has long been accepted as a way to improve the care delivered to patients.

The protection from discovery during the peer review process makes it easier to deliver and receive feedback on the care provided. The question, "Did I do the right thing?" can be asked without fear or reciprocation from non-peer sources. Physicians in hospitals already have this protection. It is paramount that we extend it to our EMS Medical Directors, many of whom volunteer their time to make Alaska's EMS system work.

HB57 is an important step to support Alaskans who serve our community as EMS providers. We request your support of this important bill.

Marvin Dean Cox
ACEMS Chair