

The Honorable David Wilson
Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Wilson,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill SB-173 which would move the oversight and licensure of Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics (MICP) from the State Medical Board to State EMS Office.

I have been licensed as an Alaskan MICP since 1998 and will be relicensing for the 10th time this coming December. It is my humble opinion that MICPs are currently misaligned in the in our Alaskan healthcare system and will be better served by the State EMS Office. The following bullet statements are meant to highlight some of the reasons for my opinion.

- The State EMS Office has always been the approval body for initial and refresher paramedic training courses. The Medical Board does not approve education.
- EMS is a young and evolving profession. The State EMS Office understands the current and emerging changes affecting the MICP profession.
- The State EMS Office is the certifying body for every other aspect of prehospital emergency care except for the MICP who are trained as the highest level of prehospital care provider.
 - The State EMS Office certifies:
 - All levels of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)
 - Ground ambulances (both ALS and BLS)
 - Medevac Services

Thank you for your time and consideration of SB-173. I believe that if this Bill passes it will go a long way towards improving paramedic level care in our Alaskan communities.

Respectfully,



Eugene E. Wiseman, BAS, MICP #324

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99507
[REDACTED]

Jody Simpson

From: Jerry Kiffer <jerryk@kgbak.us>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 9:19 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Support of SB-173

The Honorable David Wilson
Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Wilson,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill SB-173, which would move the management of Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics (MICP) licensure from the State Medical Board to State EMS Office.

Our department is beginning the transition from an EMT III to paramedic service. The ability to work with the State EMS office will streamline this transition by placing the paramedic training program under the same certifying body that administers the current State EMT program.

The State Medical Board currently does not administer, nor approve paramedic training; this move would realign the required training program with current EMT training, thus providing a clear path from First Responder through Paramedic.

Please consider SB-173. The passage of this bill will provide those services in Alaska the opportunity and a clear path to upgrading their service to the paramedic level.

Jerry L. Kiffer

Fire Chief
North Tongass Volunteer Fire Department
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Kim Skipper

From: tom check [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 7:45 AM
To: Sen. Joshua Revak
Subject: SB172 medical director support

Dear Senator Revak,

I am writing to support SB 172, which will transfer paramedic licensure to the Alaska EMS Office, allowing oversight by prehospital providers and emergency physicians. My experience as Medical Director for Mat-Su Borough EMS has demonstrated serious limitations with our current system of paramedic licensure. SB172 provides an opportunity for effective, modern, evidence-based regulation of Alaska paramedics.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Check, MD
Medical Director, Mat-Su Borough EMS

SOUTH TONGASS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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13 February 2020

The Honorable Josh Revak
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Revak,

I am writing in support of SB173.

As I am sure you are aware the Fire Service is a significant part of the Emergency Medical Service in many communities here in Alaska. This senate bill brings the licensure of Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic under the same licensing body that currently oversees all other EMS licensure. Paramedics currently working for Fire Departments, independent ambulance agencies, and medivac providers will benefit from the adoption of this bill, and all agencies employing paramedics will benefit from the consistency this brings.

As a Paramedic in this state for 10 years this April, I have worked for fire service and medivac providers, both in a supervisory roll as well as a line medic. I believe the benefits of this change will be felt in both arenas. The plan in this bill is well thought out and has a smooth transition built into it. The consistency and efficiency it brings does not compromise accountability, instead it fosters it by making one data system the regulatory point avoiding multi-agency data entry. This bill also simplifies the licensing processes of both new people coming into the field, and those moving here from other states to work.

Little to nothing will change in patient care as The State EMS office currently regulates our entire EMS system except for paramedics. All will still work under the sponsorship of a physician with oversight from the Medical board. This bill simply brings consistency to the licensing process and brings us as Paramedics under the agency we work most closely with on a daily basis, and provides us our accountability already.

Sincerely,

Mio Rhein MICP, CCP-C, FP-C
Fire/EMS Lieutenant
South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department
mior@kgbak.us



ALASKA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

One Sealaska Plaza, Suite 200, Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Honorable Josh Revak
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Revak,

I am writing to you as the President of the Alaska Fire Chief's Association representing 112 Chief Officers and 35 Fire Departments. Our members support Senate Bill 173 – License Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics. The efficiencies and potential improvements provided by moving Paramedic licensure under the Office of Emergency Medical Services will support our efforts to protect the communities we serve by better aligning all aspects of Emergency Medical Providers under a single oversight and management office.

Under the current system Fire Departments who oversee Paramedic and EMT certified responders are forced to duplicate efforts with separate offices for EMT certification and Paramedic licensure. Efficiency will be significantly improved in many of our systems as we are able to eliminate the redundancies in data entry and system management. As submitted, SB 173 ensures the scope of practice, licensing requirements, and fee schedules remain the same as under the Medical Board which ensures our ability to serve our communities is maintained and current practice is not reduced.

Improving efficiency and maintaining excellent service is the goal of any manager and public servant – SB 173 provides an opportunity for us to do both. Working with the knowledgeable staff and directors within the Department of Health we expect to see efficiencies in processing and alignment of certification and licensing cycles. We also expect an increased participation in quality initiatives that improve patient care in areas such as stroke management, cardiac arrest, trauma, telehealth, and community paramedicine.

The capabilities intrinsic to the Office of EMS with their six full time employees, certification management infrastructure, and over 100 years of combined emergency medical services staff experience we believe this is the best path for the future growth and continued development of the excellent Prehospital Care system throughout the great state of Alaska.

Abner L. Hoage

Abner Hoage, President
Alaska Fire Chiefs Association