



*Steese Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.*

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Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

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The Honorable David Wilson  
Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee  
State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 115  
Juneau, AK 99801  
[Senator.David.Wilson@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.David.Wilson@akleg.gov)

Dear Senator Wilson,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill SB-173, "An Act relating to mobile intensive care paramedics, relating to duties of the State Medical Board and the Department of Health and Social Services", 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 2007. It is my humble opinion that MICPs are currently misaligned 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,

Wilma Vinton, MICP #658  
Assistant Chief of EMS

**"Dedicated and Proud to Volunteer"**



## **Southeast Region Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.**

100 Clothilde Bahovec Way Sitka, Alaska 99835-9548 Tel: (907) 747-8005 Fax: (907) 747-1406  
[www.serems.org](http://www.serems.org)

14 February 2020

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 SB173 License Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics. I currently chair the state's EMS Training Committee, a committee of the Alaska Council of Emergency Medical Services (ACEMS), established in 1981 in order to advise ACEMS and the EMS Office. We are comprised of members from across Alaska, representing EMS educators in a variety of rural and urban settings throughout the state.

On hearing of the introduction of SB173, our committee unanimously and enthusiastically voted to endorse this bill.


Some reasons for our endorsement of SB173 include:

- Increased patient safety in emergency medical services (EMS) and prehospital care, made available by having all EMS oversight under one roof, instead of pieced out as it is currently.
- Cost-savings involved with streamlining functions currently duplicated by both the Office of EMS and the State Medical Board,
- The robust data collection capabilities made available by consolidating EMS leadership, oversight, and regulation,
- Less cumbersome processes for initial licensure and license maintenance for Paramedics and employing agencies in public safety and industry, and
- A narrowing of focus by Alaska's Medical Board, whose members could focus exclusively on licensure of physicians and physician assistants, further increasing patient safety across the healthcare spectrum in Alaska.

In short, supporting this bill should be the least controversial, most constituent-friendly non-partisan win in front of you this session. There is no downside, and it's the right thing for patients and Alaska taxpayers. Most of our members, including this writer, are Alaska-licensed Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics, and these members offered the most vocal and enthusiastic support for SB173.

Should you find it helpful, I would be delighted to testify in support of this bill. My contact information is below.

Respectfully,

  
Anjela Johnston, MICP  
SEREMS Training Coordinator  
Chair, ACEMS Training Committee  
[education@serems.org](mailto:education@serems.org) 907.419.0104

cc: The Honorable Natasha von Imhof, Senate HSS Committee Vice Chair  
The Honorable Cathy Giessel, Senate HSS Committee  
The Honorable Mike Shower, Senate HSS Committee  
The Honorable Tom Begich, Senate HSS Committee  
The Honorable Josh Revak, Sponsor, SB173



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The Honorable David Wilson  
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State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 115  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Wilson:

14 February, 2020

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

Dear Senator Wilson,

This letter is written in support of SB173, which will move licensing and regulation from the Medical Board to the Department of Health and Social Services's EMS Unit, which currently oversees all other EMT licensure in the state.

I became interested in this issue several years ago as a member of the State EMS Medical Direction Committee and after the NHTSA recommendations five years ago. It never made sense to me that paramedics were under the Medical Board, whose members are from all disciplines of medicine. There are no EMS experts on the Medical Board. The state Medical Direction Committee, which I co-chair, is composed solely of EMS oriented physicians from all the regions. We supervise EMS training and credentialing for all other EMS providers in the state.

It is impressive that the Medical Board has unanimously voted in favor of this. That squares with my belief that EMS is not in their wheelhouse. Five years ago, NHTSA recommended that the paramedics be brought under the EMS unit for similar reasons of training, coordination and patient safety.

Five years ago, NHTSA recommended that the paramedics be brought under the EMS unit for similar reasons. Under the current proposal, all paramedic regs would stay the same, with input from all sides on the future. The Medical Direction Committee would like to address the CME issue first and agree on this unanimously at last fall's meeting.

Thirty years ago, paramedics were part of an emerging specialty. Placing oversight under the Medical Board made sense to the Board then. Now the specialty has defined itself on a national level and physicians trust paramedics to come to their own homes. The mistrust from thirty years ago has been erased. I love that EMS is bipartisan.

Sincerely,

Tim Quigley Peterson, MD  
Medical Director  
Southeast Region EMS Council  
Co-Chair  
State of Alaska Medical Direction Committee

cc: The Honorable Natasha von Imhof, Senate HSS Committee Vice Chair  
The Honorable Cathy Giessel, Senate HSS Committee  
The Honorable Mike Shower, Senate HSS Committee  
The Honorable Tom Begich, Senate HSS Committee  
The Honorable Josh Revak, Sponsor, SB173

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

2/14/2020

Dear Senator Revak,

Thank you for introducing SB173. I have sent letters of support to other members of the Senate in support of SB173, including the below content:

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of a group of stakeholders in Alaska Emergency Medical Services: the Scope of Practice Implementation Task Force, a subcommittee of the Governor-appointed Alaska Council for EMS (ACEMS). This letter is a consensus position from its 15 members to-date, each of whom has a leadership or educational role in Alaska EMS.

We would like to express our unified support for Senate Bill SB-173 which would move the oversight and licensure of Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics (MICP; "paramedics") from the State Medical Board to State EMS Office.

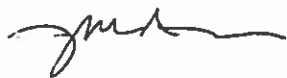
Please receive these items for consideration:

- The State EMS Office maintains rapport and relationships with National and other State organizations that certify and monitor paramedics and understands the current and emerging changes affecting paramedics.
- Currently, paramedics are delayed issuance of certification when completing their program or transferring to Alaska, pending Medical Board review. These paramedics often seek an interim certification to practice from the State of Alaska EMS Office at a lower scope of practice. Initiation and transfer of certification tools and review structure currently exist through the State of Alaska EMS Office and can readily transfer to aid paramedics.
- Many paramedics hold dual registries with the Medical Board as well as the Office of EMS, as they hold roles of educators or Medevac providers. Streamlining paramedic registries reduces duplicitous workload for the Office of EMS and the Medical Board.
- The Office of EMS is active in field care data reporting and management as well as patient care initiatives including cardiac arrest registry, stroke care, trauma services, and community paramedicine. Aligning paramedic licensure and oversight with this infrastructure would allow for improved continuous quality improvement for providers, services, and care initiatives.

Thank you for your time and contemplation of these points.

Again, we appreciate your support of EMS through the introduction of SB173.

Respectfully,



Julie Marie Anderson, MICP M564

Co-Chair, Alaska Council on EMS's Scope of Practice Implementation Task Force

864 Beach Road  
Haines, AK 99827  
907-314-3111

**Nikiski Fire Service Area**  
Kenai Peninsula Borough  
Emergency Medical Officer  
P.O. Box 8508  
Nikiski, Alaska 99635



**Harrison Deveer, Senior Captain**  
907-776-6401 - Station #1  
907-252-8106 - Mobile  
907-283-8404 - Fax  
hdeveer@kpb.us

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February 14, 2020

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

Dear Senator Revak:

I am writing in support of SB 173: Transfer of oversight and licensure of Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics from the State Medical Board to the Department of Health and Social Services. As Senior Captain of EMS for Nikiski Fire Department and also an MICP for about eleven (11) years in the state of Alaska, I would like to say that I am in full support of this measure. Paramedics are a very important part of the EMS system in the state of Alaska. In our department, Paramedics represent the leaders when it comes to patient care within our EMS operations. It is very important that all levels of EMS certification within the State EMS system be regulated by one body at the State level: The State of Alaska EMS office. I also believe that this integration will increase participation in quality initiatives that improve patient care in areas such as stroke, cardiac arrest, trauma, telehealth, and community paramedicine.

The State EMS office under the supervision of Mr. Todd McDowell has done an excellent job in the last working with ACEMS and the State Medical Directors in assuring that EMS in Alaska is in line with national standards starting from Patient care initiatives to certification and licensure. I have no doubt that the State of Alaska EMS office will be more than capable to handle this new addition. As a training officer in my department who deals with certifications and licensing, I can assure you that having one regulatory agency to deal with will be more than a blessing.

I have spoken with many paramedics in department as well as on the Kenai Peninsula and I am yet to have interacted with anyone who is against this transition. This transition will not only promote public safety for our patients, but will also help bring new efficiencies to our personnel licensure process.

Sincerely,

Harrison Deveer





## **Alaska Council on Emergency Medical Services (ACEMS)**

c/o DHSS Division of Public Health  
Section of Emergency Programs  
Box 110616  
Juneau, AK 99811-0616

February 12, 2020

**Chair:**

Eddie Athey, Fire Chief  
Prehospital Provider

**Vice-Chair:**

Marvin Dean Cox  
Consumer Representative

**Officer-at-Large:**

Danita Koehler, MD  
Physician Representative

**Secretary:**

John Bardsley  
Hospital Administrator

Alaska Council on Emergency Medical Services  
c/o DHSS Division of Public Health  
Box 110616  
Juneau, AK 9981109616

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

Subject: SB 173 License Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics

Dear Senator Revak,

The Alaska Council on Emergency Medical Services (ACEMS) unanimously endorses the transfer of oversight and licensure of Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics from the State Medical Board to the Department of Health and Social Services. We believe such a move will serve to improve public safety, bring new efficiencies to the Alaska EMS personnel licensure process, and can be done with no fiscal impact.

Moving the paramedics to Health and Social Services would also put all emergency medical services in Alaska under the state agency whose sole purpose is to ensure a comprehensive statewide EMS system. It just makes sense.

Sincerely,

Marvin Dean Cox, Consumer Representative  
Acting Chair, ACEMS

# ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Ethan Berkowitz  
Mayor

Headquarters  
100 East 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone (907) 267-4936 / Fax (907) 267-4977



Jodie Hettrick  
Fire Chief

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

Dear Senator Revak,

Thank you for your work on Senate Bill 173 Licensing Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic. The Anchorage Fire Department currently employs over 90 paramedics and more than 300 emergency medical technicians (EMTs) within our all hazards response organization. As the director of the largest career emergency service provider I support Senate Bill 173 – Licensing Mobil intensive Care Paramedics.

Our department responds to over 36,000 calls for service annually, more than 25,000 of which require emergency medical care. Paramedics and EMTs are essential to the service we provide to our community. Our responders provide an incredible level of service and care under the direction of our Physician Sponsor who is responsible for ensuring these care providers are educated, certified, licensed, and maintained in accordance with state requirements and industry best practices.

Nearly all of our Paramedics are also certified within the Office of EMS as Paramedic Educators, Multi-Level EMT Instructors, and as Advanced Level EMTs. This dual certification/licensure creates significant redundancy for our staff in the maintenance of multiple tracking and reporting systems. SB 173 provides an opportunity to eliminate these redundant efforts.

I believe the dedicated staff at the Office of EMS will be better positioned to process new provider EMT certifications and Paramedic Licensure. The Anchorage Fire Department has brought more than 50 new employees into our system in the last 24 months and we see no reason to expect that our workforce development support needs will decrease. In our experience, the Emergency Medical Services unit has demonstrated an aptitude for processing requests for certification reciprocity and new provider approval.

SB-173 ensures our EMTs and Paramedics all work in a single system that has our high confidence and has supported us well to date.

Sincerely,

Jodie Hettrick  
Fire Chief  
Anchorage Fire Department

February 12, 2020

Michael Levy MD  
Anchorage Fire Department Medical Director  
100 E 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99501

The Honorable Joshua Revak Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol Room 125  
Juneau AK, 99801  
[Senator.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov)

Dear Senator Revak:

I am writing in support of SB173, "An Act relating to mobile intensive care paramedics; relating to duties of the State Medical Board and the Department of Health and Social Services".

This Act transfers oversight of Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics from the State Medical Board to the Department of Health and Social Services. This change would align oversight and licensure of our highest tier of prehospital providers, paramedics, with the rest of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) under the agency whose sole purpose is to ensure a comprehensive statewide EMS system. The State EMS Office is well-positioned to provide the efficiency, organization and oversight to support this change.

This is a commendable, commonsense proposal that I fully support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Levy".

Michael Levy MD, FAEMS, FACEP, FACP  
Medical Director Emergency Programs State of Alaska  
Medical Director Anchorage Fire Department and Areawide EMS  
Medical Director Kenai Peninsula Borough EMS  
Medical Director Anchorage Safety Patrol  
Medical Director Fairweather LLC  
Medical Director SALA Remote Medics  
Medical Director (Alaska) Wilderness Medic  
President-Elect National Association of EMS Physicians

February 14, 2020

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The Honorable David Wilson  
Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee  
State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 115  
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[Senator.David.Wilson@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.David.Wilson@akleg.gov)

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This is an efficient and commonsense proposal that I fully support.

Sincerely,

Maria E. Mandich MD  
Medical Director Interior Region EMS Council  
Medical Director University Fire Department  
Medical Director Chena Goldstream Fire Department  
Medical Director Ester Volunteer Fire Department