



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

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.

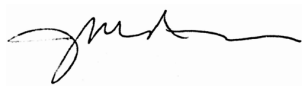
Please receive these items for consideration:

- 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



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

The Honorable Josh Revak

State Capitol Room 125
Juneau AK, 99801
Phone: 907-465-3879

Dear Senator Revak,

I am writing to thank you for sponsoring Senate Bill SB-173 which would transfer the licensure and oversight of Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics (MICP) to the Department of Emergency Medical Services. Since I moved here in 1997 and became an Alaska paramedic, I have wished to see the oversight of initial training, licensure, and continuing education moved to the EMS Department. Although I have understood the historical premise that saw MICP's licensed under the Medical Board, times and requirements have changed, and I believe our state will benefit from changing this as well.

While EMT-1 level training consists of about 160 hours, paramedics require many more hours and clinical rotations. (My own program took over 360 hours of didactic and more than 1000 hours of clinical rotation.) None-the-less, paramedics are still EMT's, which is why the EMS office is a very logical organization to oversee paramedics.

There are a few other advantages to this relationship change as well. It has always fallen to the EMS office to approve initial training and continuing education of paramedics and this also helps ensure that there is sufficient oversight. The EMS Department has more contact with other national EMS organizations and can monitor changing technologies and clinical trends as they pertain to pre-hospital medicine. The treatment of patients in the field is constantly evolving and it is a great idea to have an organization that is more aware of these trends. The state EMS Department is also the licensing and certifying agency for all other aspects of EMS activities, including Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support ambulances, air ambulances and, of course, all levels of EMT from EMT-1 to the new Advanced EMT level.

As a member of the Governor's Alaska Council for EMS (ACEMS) and also a participant in the ACEMS Implementation Task Force that is working to update and improve all aspects of training and performance for the EMT's in our state, I feel like this is the right time to make this change. Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information

Thanks very much for your time and attention,

David Harbour, AS-MICP, License #302
P.O. Box 746
Nome, Alaska 99762
Cell: (907)301-0106

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

Dear Senator Revak,

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

I would also like to take this opportunity to say, "THANK YOU!" for being an advocate for my profession. Once SB-173 becomes law, it will be a fresh step toward improving paramedic level prehospital care in our Alaskan communities.

Respectfully,

Eugene E. Wiseman, BAS, MICP #324

7429 Grey Wolf Cir
Anchorage, AK 99507
907-748-1029

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

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 it 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "H. Deveer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Harrison Deveer

ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Ethan Berkowitz
Mayor

Headquarters
100 East 4th 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

Kim Skipper

Subject: FW: Support of SB-173

From: Jerry Kiffer <jerryk@kgbak.us>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 9:19 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services <Senate.HSS@akleg.gov>
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
13110 North Tongass Hwy
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Tel: (907) 228-6710
Fax: (907) 247-5523

Kim Skipper

From: John Hall <accchamp@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 7:29 PM
To: Sen. Joshua Revak
Subject: SB 173

2/14/2020

John Hall MD
Medical Director Beacon Occupational Health and Safety Services
800 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

The Honorable Joshua Revak Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau AK, 99801
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 EMS Division of 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.

Sir, I served as the State EMS Medical Director for twelve years in the 80's and 90's. I served at least an equal number of years on the Mayors EMS advisory board in Anchorage. I presently sponsor more than 35 Physician Assistants, who belong under the Medical Board. I also sponsor an equal number of Paramedics, EMT 2's and EMT 3's, who I believe belong under the EMS Division.

Sir, I commend you for this commonsense proposal that I fully support and will happily discuss the issue with whomever if it would assist you in moving this bill forward.

Sincerely,
John

John Hall MD
Medical Director

Beacon OHSS
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Cell: (907) 227-7860
jhall@beaconohss.com
www.beaconohss.com



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

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Anjela Johnston', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anjela Johnston, MICP
SEREMS Training Coordinator
Chair, ACEMS Training Committee
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

February 12, 2020

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

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

Golden Heart Emergency Physicians
3875 Geist Rd Ste E381
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 458-6943

The Honorable Joshua Revak Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau, AK, 99801
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. Assumption of this responsibility by the Department of Health and Social Services does not require any additional funding or staffing.

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

SOUTH TONGASS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

5690 ROOSEVELT DRIVE • KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901 • 907/228-6673 • fax 907/247-1322

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



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

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:

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



Central Emergency Services

Roy Browning
Fire Chief

February 14, 2020

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

Dear Senator Revak,

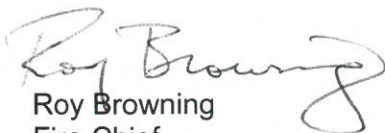
I am writing to you to express my support for Senate Bill 173, License Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics, which would move the oversight and licensure of Mobile Care Intensive Paramedics from the State Medical Board to the Office of Emergency Medical Services.

Central Emergency Services currently employs fifty-eight (58) certified or licensed medical personnel at various levels within the EMS system. All of these employees receive approval from the Office of Emergency Medical Services for any continuing education hours required to maintain these certifications. All of this information is maintained within one common EMS certification system, which is operated by the Office of Emergency Medical Services. However, twenty-two of these employees are Paramedics. Unfortunately under the current system, the Paramedics are required to upload the same information into a total of three different EMS certification systems to maintain their state and national certification.

By allowing the movement of Paramedics and their licensure to the Office of Emergency Medical Services, services provided to both Paramedics and the agencies where they work will be streamlined. A singular oversight and management office will all but eliminate many of the redundancies our Training Office and shift personnel deal with in order to maintain certifications. Additionally, Senate Bill 173 creates continuity within the pre-hospital care system by uniting the pre-hospital care providers under one office.

Thank you for your time and consideration in supporting Senate Bill 173.

Respectfully,


Roy Browning
Fire Chief

Kim Skipper

From: tom check <maximumAK700@hotmail.com>
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



Steese Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

800 William C Leary Lane

Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

Phone: (907) 457-3710 Fax: (907) 457-1512

The Honorable Joshua Revak Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau, AK, 99801
Senator.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov

Dear Senator Revak:

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