



**INTERIOR FIRE CHIEFS ASSN. OF ALASKA**

Post Office Box 70986  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-0986

Tax ID No. 92-0139074

February 12, 2021

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

The Honorable Representative Laddie Shaw  
State Capitol Room 112  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Revak and Representative Shaw,

The Interior Fire Chiefs Association supports Senate Bill 21 and House Bill 35, "An Act relating to mobile intensive care paramedics; relating to duties of the State Medical Board and the Department of Health and Social Services; and providing for an effective date." Members of the Interior Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) direct the emergency medical services throughout Interior Alaska and are responsible for the oversight, training, and support of hundreds of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and mobile intensive care paramedics (MICPs). The population we serve is approximately 100,000.

EMTs and MICPs alike deliver pre-hospital emergency medical care, working together on our ambulances and first responder apparatus. Many EMTs advance to MICP as they accrue experience and advanced qualifications. Currently, EMTs are certified by the Emergency Medical Services Unit within DHSS, whereas MICPs are licensed by the State Medical Board. Navigating dual regulatory authorities and sets of regulations has been a source of frustration for many years.

The EMS Unit is solely focused on EMT certification and administration, making it the most appropriate entity to license MICPs. Placing oversight of EMTs and MICPs under the EMS Unit would streamline training, certification/licensure, and improve coordination. This will be a significant step in improving emergency care in Alaska.

The Interior Fire Chiefs thank you for sponsoring this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Bracken, President