



# INTERIOR REGION EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL, INC.

2503 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue • Fairbanks, Alaska 99709  
Phone (907) 456-3978 • Fax (907) 456-3970

**2020/2021  
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The Honorable Representative Zack Fields  
The Honorable Representative Ivy Spohnholz  
Co-Chairs House Labor & Commerce Standing Committee  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Fields and Representative Spohnholz,

On behalf of Interior Region EMS Council Board of Directors we advocate House Bill 35 is passed, moving Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics (MICP) oversight and licensure from the State Medical Board to the State EMS Office.

Currently, EMTs are credentialed by the EMS Unit within DHSS, while the paramedics fall under State Medical Board. The State EMS Office is singularly focused on pre-hospital emergency care and is best suited to administer and credential MICPs. This would streamline training, certification/licensure, and improve coordination of Alaska's EMTs and MICPs. The burden for managers of EMS agencies will be streamlined with a single system and regulatory requirements.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HB-35. Passing this Bill will consolidate limited resources, create efficiency, improve support and enhance the provision of emergency care across Alaska.

Sincerely,

*Crystal Stordahl*  
Crystal Stordahl (Mar 22, 2021 09:12 AKDT)

Crystal Stordahl, Chair  
IREMSC Board of Directors

**From:** [Michael Branum](#)  
**To:** [House Health and Social Services](#); [House Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** INFO: Support of SB21  
**Date:** Saturday, March 27, 2021 3:20:23 AM

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My name is Mike Branum. I worked in the EMS Unit in Alaska from 2005 to 2008 before accepting the position of Emergency Manager with the City and Borough of Juneau. I started as the Training Coordinator and was promoted to Unit Manager when my boss left state employment.

For whatever it is worth as a non-constituent (residing now in the State of Utah), I would like to express my support for SB21. I understand how the oversight of Alaska Paramedics came to be provided by the State Medical Board, but the time has come and gone for a change. Even when I was with the Unit over 15 years ago, the Board only licensed Paramedics, it was the EMS Unit which did background checks for their applicants and the EMS Unit which approved the programs which TRAINED the Paramedics the Board licensed.

Now that SB21 has unanimously passed the Senate, I encourage the Health and Social Services Committee and the Labor and Commerce Committee to move this bill to the floor with your full support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael R. Branum, JD, MPA, RN  
Former Paramedic and AK DHSS Employee

**From:** [Tim Tillman](#)  
**To:** [House Health and Social Services](#); [House Labor and Commerce](#)  
**Subject:** Please Pass SB21  
**Date:** Monday, March 22, 2021 12:47:52 PM

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I encourage you to pass this important bill to unify EMS in the state of Alaska.

Thank you,

Tim Tillman



# ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT



*Austin Quinn-Davidson,  
Acting Mayor*

Headquarters  
100 East 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone (907) 267-4900 / Fax (907) 267-4977



*Jodie Hettrick  
Fire Chief*

February 8, 2021

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

Dear Senator Revak,

Thank you for your work on Senate Bill 21 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 Fire Chief of the largest career emergency service provider, I support Senate Bill 21 – Licensing Mobil intensive Care Paramedics.

Our Department responds to over 36,000 calls for service annually, close to 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 Medical Director 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 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 nearly 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.

Unfortunately, we have experienced significant delays with the of processing of new paramedic licenses by the Medical Board during the past year. For example, one of our new Paramedics has waited more than six months for his license. This impacts our ability to complete his department required training and allow him to serve as a paramedic.

SB 21 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



# Chugiak Volunteer Fire and Rescue

P.O. Box 670363, Chugiak, Alaska 99567

(907) 694-2010 [www.cvfrd.com](http://www.cvfrd.com)

**Honorable Senators:**  
**Shelley Hughes**  
**Lora Reinbold**  
**Josh Revak**

**Honorable Representatives:**  
**Cathy Tilton**  
**Ken McCarty**

32<sup>nd</sup> State Legislature  
Juneau, AK. 99801

RE: SB 21

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Honorable Senators and Representatives- Once again I come to you asking for your support of legislation to move the licensure of paramedics from the Alaska Board of Medical Licensure to the Department of Health. We, at CVFRD assert this legislation will improve the efficiency of maintaining our EMS provider's professional licensure by placing all levels in one state office.

Over 6 years ago, and for a variety of reasons, NHTSA recommended that paramedics be brought under authority of EMS in DHSS to increase system coordination, patient safety, and training standards. Currently, there are no EMS subject matter experts or disciplines represented on the State Medical Board which leaves EMS interest unrepresented. Furthermore, the Medical Board unanimously voted to approve the transfer of paramedics from their purview to the Section of EMS, at a Feb 2019 meeting.

This effort is widely supported by my colleagues in the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association and would be appreciated by that group as well as the 12 paramedic members of the Chugiak Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company.

*Tim Benningfield*  
Tim Benningfield, Chief

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-21 which would move the oversight and licensure of Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics (MICP) from the State Medical Board to the State EMS Office. The State EMS Office has always been the approval body for initial and refresher paramedic training courses whereas the State Medical Board does not approve paramedic education nor does it have any general or specific expertise in the provision of prehospital care. EMS is a dynamic, vital and evolving facet of the health care system with paramedics representing the highest tier of field provider. The State EMS Office is the certifying body for every other aspect of prehospital emergency care except for paramedics. This includes all levels of EMT, ALS and BLS ground ambulances and medevac services. Paramedics, and the citizens they serve, deserve professional oversight by those who understand the current and emerging changes affecting the system.

Once SB-21 becomes law, it will be a significant step toward improving paramedic level prehospital care in our Alaskan communities.

Respectfully,



David Cadogan, MD FACEP

Chair, Municipal Emergency Medical Services Board  
Medical Director, Girdwood Fire and Rescue  
Medical Director, Guardian Flight Alaska  
Medical Director, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company

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

February 14, 2021

Dear Senator Revak,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill SB-21 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 a Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic in the State of Alaska since 2003. As you know, we live and work in the best state in the Union, and I appreciate your attention to this issue.

For many years I have been responsible for facilitating re-licensure and re-certification of Matanuska-Susitna's paramedics and EMTs. As you know, having the paramedics under one scope of control and the EMTs under another has been problematic. Verifying education and card certifications, communicating with different agencies, and following different procedures has required a specific level of expertise that is unnecessary. And causes unnecessary delay in certification as well as additional administration time to facilitate. This is further complicated by those who wish to maintain both an EMT certification and a MICP license.

As a provider, the Medical Board appears to be disconnected from what is current and what the issues are with pre-hospital paramedicine. The State EMS Office are the ones who we communicate with about ongoing education and issues that need to be addressed for patient care. With all paramedics needing to have a Physician Sponsor, and with Dr. Levy guiding the State EMS, there is plenty of Physician oversight already in place.

Thank you for your support in this issue. It may seem like a minor thing, but it really will make a change to facilitate better function of EMS in Alaska.



Glori A Strickler, MICP, CCEMTP



The Honorable Josh Revak,  
State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 125  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Via email: Senator.Josh.Revak@akleg.gov

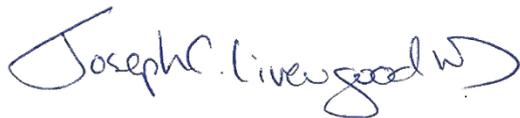
Dear Senator Revak,

Thank you for sponsoring SB 21.

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill SB-21 which would move the oversight and licensure of Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics (MICP) from the State Medical Board to the State EMS Office. The State EMS Office has always been the approval body for initial and refresher paramedic training courses whereas the State Medical Board does not approve paramedic education nor does it have any general or specific expertise in the provision of prehospital care. EMS is a dynamic, vital and evolving facet of the health care system with paramedics representing the highest tier of field provider. The State EMS Office is the certifying body for every other aspect of prehospital emergency care except for paramedics. This includes all levels of EMT, ALS and BLS ground ambulances and medevac services. Paramedics, and the citizens they serve, deserve professional oversight by those who understand the current and emerging changes affecting the system.

Once SB-21 becomes law, it will be a significant step toward improving paramedic level prehospital care in our Alaskan communities.

Respectfully,



Joseph C. Livengood, MD, FACS



Acute Care Surgeon, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital  
Medical Director & Team Medic Alaska State Troopers Northern Special Emergency Reaction Team  
Medical Director, BLM Alaska Fire Smokejumpers  
Medical Director, BLM Alaska Fire Hotshots, Fire Specialists and Zone EMTs  
Member, ACEMS Implementation Task Force

Cc: Todd McDowell - 



## *Steese Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.*

*800 William C Leary Lane*

*Fairbanks, Alaska 99712*

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

1/31/2021

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-21, "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

University Fire Department  
Post Office Box 755540  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-5540

9 February 2021

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

Dear Senator Revak,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 21, "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."

Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and mobile intensive care paramedics (MICPs) work side-by-side on our ambulances and on emergency scenes. For many years, the managers of Alaska's emergency medical services have been stymied by duplicative and disparate sets of regulations under two separate regulatory authorities. Currently, EMTs are credentialed by the Emergency Medical Services Unit within DHSS, whereas MICPs are licensed by the State Medical Board.

The EMS Unit is singularly focused on pre-hospital emergency care and is best suited for licensure and administration of MICP services. Co-locating oversight under the EMS Unit would streamline training, certification/licensure, and improve coordination of our EMTs and MICPs. Doing so will be a significant step in improving pre-hospital emergency care in Alaska.

Thank you for sponsoring this bill. Please feel free to call on me if I can assist you in any way.

Vr,



Douglas Schrage, Fire Chief  


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-21 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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-21 becomes law, it will be a fresh step toward improving paramedic level prehospital care in our Alaskan communities.

Respectfully,

*Jennifer Brown*

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