

To: Senate Labor and Commerce Committee [Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov)  
Re: *Support for HB57: Emergency Medical Services Quality Assurance Program Protections*

Dear Committee Chair,

I am writing to encourage you to pass HB57 through your Committee to the Senate floor without amendment, and to vote for it once it reaches the floor. Your support of this essential legislation will help Emergency Medical Services (EMS) improve the quality of prehospital care, and will sustain EMS systems in their mission to provide quality healthcare that connects Alaskans with the further care they need. Protecting EMS Quality Improvement (QI) efforts will allow EMS services to establish vigorous QI programs. Please help make this legislation law.

HB57 is custom-built for the Legislature to exercise oversight. Protecting EMS QI is how we shine a light into dark corners, ensure transparency, and learn what we need to know to make prehospital care better. HB57 simply amends AS18.23.070 to include EMS agencies in this Act, extending existing legislation to help assure the quality of care Alaskans receive from EMS.

I am a paramedic and a nurse and have worked in and around EMS since arriving in Alaska in 1997. I have seen the value EMS provides to rural and urban communities as well as how fragile these systems of care can be. I urge you to strengthen EMS across Alaska by extending QI protections to Emergency Medical Services.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Anjela', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Anjela Johnston  
315 Highland Drive  
Juneau, AK 99801



## KETCHIKAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Integrity, Professionalism, Respect, Compassion, Teamwork, and Innovation

70 Bawden Street Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

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Assistant Chief Greg Karlik

E-mail: [gregk@city.ketchikan.ak.us](mailto:gregk@city.ketchikan.ak.us)

To: Senate Labor and Commerce Committee  
Senate Health and Social Services Committee  
From: Greg Karlik, Asst. Fire Chief  
Date: 02/12/2024  
Subject: *Re: Support for HB57: Emergency Medical Services Quality Assurance Program Protections*

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Dear Committee Members,

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Agencies provide life-saving care and emergency transportation to tens of thousands of Alaskans each year. EMS is an essential component of our health care system. The quality of that care depends on education, training and quality assurance and quality improvement. Quality assurance and quality improvement are founded upon candid review of the care rendered and this, in turn, requires statutory assurance that this can be performed without fear of legal discovery.

This protection is afforded to hospitals and clinics in AS18.23.070. HB57 amends this to simply provide equity to Alaska EMS agencies and our largely volunteer EMS medical directors in this Act. EMS provides healthcare services in the out of hospital environment. We have recognized the heroic work and sacrifices performed by this group of health care providers. HB57 simply extends existing legislation to help assure the quality of care provided. I strongly support this legislation and urge that it be adopted.

Sincerely,

Greg J. Karlik  
Assistant Fire Chief  
Ketchikan Fire Department

To: Senate Labor and Commerce Committee [Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov)  
Senate Health and Social Services Committee : [Senate.Health.And.Social.Services@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.Health.And.Social.Services@akleg.gov)

*Re: Support for HB57: Emergency Medical Services Quality Assurance Program Protections*

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Sincerely,

Jennifer Twito BSN, RN

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Quigley Peterson <quigleypeterson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 11, 2024 8:08 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB 57 Support

Dear Committees Members,

I write in support of this measure as an EMS Physician and Medical Director of the Southeast Region EMS Council. We work with nearly thirty EMS services in SE Alaska, from Metlakatla to Yakutat. Out side of JUneau and Ketchikan, the majority of EMS responders and Medical Directors are volunteers.

One of our most important tasks for Medical Directors is to meet regularly with responders to review calls. What went well. What did not? What needs improvement?

In my hospital Emergency Room setting, these discussions are privileged by statute. It is extremely important for all medical providers to be able to discuss both errors and near misses as part of a robust Quality Improvement process. Currently most volunteer EMS Medical Directors have no malpractice insurance and are therefore exposed to liability when they work on system improvement.

Please add this protection for EMS providers.

**Tim Quigley Peterson, MD**

Medical Director  
Southeast Region EMS  
Sitka, AK

