

Hon. and Committee Members,  
Interim Finance Committee,

By way of introduction, I am the Clinical Coordinator for the Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) EMS program, having retired last year as the EMS Division Chief for the Reno Fire Department. Prior to moving to northern Nevada, I spent most of life in southern Nevada having been a firefighter/EMS responder of the Clark County Fire Department's (CCFD) rural division, an EMS administrator with Community Ambulance and EMS educator at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN). And yes, in a time long ago, served eight years here in the State Assembly and the same term in the state's Senate.

Please allow this letter to be entered into the record and serve as my support for adequate funding of the Nevada EMS "Program" and the necessary change of it's status as a "Program" to a "Bureau". These changes are needed for the support of Nevada's ability to provide efficient and effective emergency medical services (EMS). As important, it will elevate the department from the title of "Program", the lowest recognized department in the state's organizational structure, to "Bureau" which even for namesake provides a more prominent stature. A review of the National Registry of EMTs website show most states (including neighboring states, ID. UT. & AZ), have EMS Bureaus, with "Divisions, Sections and Offices" populating the majority of the remaining state EMS organizations.

The Nevada legislature passed legislation allowing Clark County to establish their own oversight programs working under and in the stead of the State EMS Program. Clark County who pushed for the legislation effectively established its EMS division which oversees all EMS provider activities in the county. The state Program is charged with the EMS activities in all other 16 counties. The pay differential between these identical positions in these two organizations is as much as \$20,000 a year.

For decades this "Program" has been underfunded, understaffed and unsupported. As a result, often the staff, which I have found to hard working and loyal state employees, struggle to efficiently execute their mission. The effect to Fire Departments, private and volunteer EMS providers and to the educational institutions responsible for training EMS students, is service which interferes and delays the various organizations operations.

One item that could relieve unnecessary and burdensome workload of the state EMS staff and which could be made effect through a simple "Letter of Intent" from the IFC would be the elimination of the requirement of EMT and AEMT students having to apply to the state for a "provisional ambulance attendance license" to do a one- or two-time ride-along with fire department or ambulance service. The provisional licensing process does absolutely nothing to contribute to the emergency agencies guarantees or expectations of the students, in fact the system becomes a burden. The process often produces a negative downstream effect when approvals come to late to place students in ride-along slots the FD/EMS agencies provided. There is no statutory or regulatory requirement for this burdensome ritual and in fact Clark County EMS does not require provisional licensing for its EMTs/AEMTs for one-time training rides. I would hope a public discussion with all stakeholders could be organized to address this issue.

Thank you for allowing me to enter this written testimony into the record and I am available to any of you for questions or resourceful information at the contact included below.



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