



December 8th, 2023

Dear Senator Seeberger, Representative Huot, and members of the Joint Emergency Medical Services Task Force,

On behalf of our organizations, which collectively represent nearly all cities in Minnesota, we are writing to express our concern regarding rapidly growing challenges related to emergency medical services (EMS) delivery and sustainability across Minnesota. We would also like to express our collective support for not only immediate financial relief to struggling licensed ambulance services but also interventions designed to help resolve serious workforce challenges, capital equipment needs, education, and ongoing operational deficits.

The League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) is a membership organization that serves 838 of Minnesota's 855 cities through advocacy, education and training, policy development, risk management, and other services. The Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) is a group of more than 120 cities throughout the state dedicated to developing viable progressive communities for families and businesses through good local government and strong economic growth. Our cities play a significant role in ensuring Minnesotans have access to reliable and sustainable emergency medical services.

You will hear references to the Financial Evaluation of Minnesota's Ground Ambulance Industry, a report compiled and distributed by the Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board that highlights the operating challenges ground ambulance services face daily. This report places a bright spotlight on the reimbursement shortages that continue to fall short of covering even the most basic costs of providing these essential services. **This report supports what will be our request to the legislature for an immediate aid bill in 2024 designed to help struggling licensed ambulance services.**

With seven of the eight EMS regions reporting a combined \$66 million loss when comparing actual expenses to total insurance revenues in 2022, it is clear to our members that something needs to be done to ensure adequate ambulance services remain accessible. This staggering figure does not even account for the value of the subsidy provided by volunteer members for many smaller services throughout the state, totaling more than \$55 million, approximately 97% of which is recognized in Greater Minnesota.

We greatly appreciate the appointment of all of you to a Legislative Task Force – and encourage you to continue to listen to all voices across Minnesota. While there are many commonalities facing our members statewide, we fully recognize that there are nuances around challenges faced throughout our state, and there can be no “one size fits all” approach toward sustainable solutions.

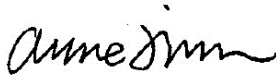
We also recognize, support, and participate in the Minnesota EMS Delivery and Sustainability Task Force, a voluntary group of subject matter experts engaged in and committed to identifying solutions that will sustain EMS services for all Minnesotans. We encourage you to work in collaboration with this group toward sustainable solutions.

Lastly, we fully understand that some of the underlying issues may take significant work and time to resolve. While this work is being done to create a sustainable system, our organizations support and will advocate for an immediate funding bill that would provide urgent relief to licensed ambulance providers facing incredible financial challenges in the hopes that services can be maintained while broader solutions are implemented.

Sincerely,



Bradley Peterson
Executive Director, Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities



Anne Finn
Intergovernmental Relations Director, League of Minnesota Cities

CC:

Senate Majority Leader Kari Dziedzic
Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson
House Speaker Melissa Hortman
House Minority Leader Lisa Demuth
Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Senator Paul Utke, Ranking Member, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Representative Tina Liebling, Chair, House Health Finance and Policy Committee
Representative Joe Schomacker, Ranking Member, House Finance and Policy Committee