TOWN OF

NORTH KINGSTOWN, RHODE ISLAND

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April 30, 2025

Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Finance Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
State House
Providence, RI 02903
HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Dear Chairperson and Members of the House Finance Committee:

As a Fire/EMS Chief serving Rhode Island residents, I strongly support House Bill H5772, which updates insurance reimbursement practices for ambulance services and recognizes the essential role of mobile integrated healthcare.

This bill modernizes outdated reimbursement models by requiring that, starting January 1, 2026, individual, group, and Medicaid health insurance plans reimburse ambulance services at Medicare-equivalent rates. Crucially, the bill clarifies that ambulance providers shall be reimbursed based on the level of care provided, regardless of whether the patient is transported, and that reimbursement includes community-based healthcare services such as mobile integrated health and community paramedicine programs.

This change is more than overdue. EMS systems today do much more than transport patients. We deliver time-sensitive medical interventions, reduce unnecessary emergency room visits, support public health initiatives, and respond to crises where transport is not always appropriate or needed. Yet under current reimbursement structures, these vital services often go unpaid.

House Bill H5772 reflects the true scope of care we provide in Rhode Island communities. By recognizing and funding non-transport care and community paramedicine, the legislation helps stabilize EMS agencies and supports innovation in healthcare delivery.

I urge you to support this important legislation. Our ability to provide high-quality, responsive, and sustainable emergency and preventive care depends on it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John G. Linacre Jr.
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