

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** David Hiltz <david@code1web.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2026 12:01 PM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Subject:** Supporting H-7485

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I strongly support the legislation introduced by Tina L. Spears and Victoria Gu to establish sustainable reimbursement for community paramedicine and treatment-in-place programs in Rhode Island.

For decades, EMS reimbursement has largely been based on a transportation model — payment occurs only when a patient is taken to the hospital. This structure no longer reflects how modern emergency medical services actually deliver care. Today's EMS clinicians routinely provide on-scene assessment, treatment, follow-up care, and navigation to appropriate health and social services. Much of that care appropriately occurs without transport.

Community paramedicine and mobile integrated health programs allow EMS to fill critical gaps in the healthcare system by:

- Providing follow-up care after hospital discharge
- Supporting patients with chronic disease management
- Conducting wellness and safety checks for high-risk individuals
- Connecting patients with primary care, behavioral health, and social services
- Treating low-acuity conditions safely in place when hospital transport is unnecessary

These programs improve patient outcomes while reducing unnecessary emergency department visits and hospital admissions.

The proposed legislation recognizes a simple reality: EMS delivers healthcare, not just transportation. Aligning reimbursement with the care actually provided is both sound healthcare policy and responsible stewardship of healthcare resources.

From a systems perspective, treatment-in-place and community paramedicine are essential components of modern healthcare delivery, particularly in rural and medically underserved communities. Sustainable funding will allow programs already operating in Rhode Island to expand and will enable other communities to develop similar models.

This legislation represents an important step toward a more patient-centered, efficient, and resilient healthcare system.

I commend Representative Spears, Senator Gu, and their colleagues for advancing this thoughtful and forward-looking policy.

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