



**RHODE ISLAND LEAGUE
OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

March 12, 2026

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan, Chair
House Health and Human Services Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: HOUSE BILL 7485 – AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Dear Chair Donovan and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we write to express our support for House Bill 7485, which would establish a reimbursement pathway for Treatment in Place services and Mobile Integrated Health–Community Paramedicine (MIH-CP) programs, while also increasing reimbursement rates for ambulance services across Rhode Island.

Municipalities rely heavily on local emergency medical service providers to respond to medical emergencies and to ensure that residents receive timely and appropriate care. Across the state, EMS agencies are already providing treatment in place when it is clinically appropriate; however, under the current reimbursement model, EMS agencies are only reimbursed when a patient is transported to a hospital. This structure does not reflect the evolving role of EMS providers or the reality that many patients can be effectively treated on-site or connected with appropriate follow-up care without requiring transport to an emergency department.

Many Rhode Island communities have already begun implementing Mobile Integrated Health–Community Paramedicine programs, including municipalities such as West Warwick, Cumberland, Smithfield, and Providence. These programs help connect residents with the right level of care, reduce unnecessary emergency department visits, and support vulnerable populations who may benefit from medical services delivered in their homes. In many cases, these programs have been made possible through temporary grant funding or limited pilot initiatives. Without a sustainable reimbursement pathway, however, municipalities face challenges in maintaining and expanding these important services.

House Bill 7485 would help address this gap by requiring health insurers to provide coverage for emergency medical service providers administering mobile integrated healthcare community paramedicine. In addition, the legislation would direct the Department of Health, in collaboration with the Ambulance Service Coordinating Advisory Board, to administer a statewide Mobile Integrated Health–Community Paramedicine program. Together, these provisions would help create a more sustainable and coordinated framework for delivering innovative EMS services across Rhode Island.

From the municipal perspective, strengthening EMS reimbursement and supporting community paramedicine programs can help ensure that local departments have the resources necessary to meet increasing service demands while continuing to provide high-quality care to residents. These programs not only improve patient outcomes but can also help alleviate pressure on hospital emergency departments and better utilize the expertise of our EMS professionals.

The Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns appreciate the intent of this legislation and believes it represents an important step toward modernizing EMS delivery and reimbursement in Rhode Island. We respectfully urge favorable consideration of House Bill 7485 and stand ready to work with the bill sponsors and the General Assembly to support policies that strengthen emergency medical services for communities across our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our perspective. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Rossi', written in a cursive style.

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Health and Human Services Committee