



March 10, 2026

Dear Chairperson and Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Cumberland Emergency Medical Services to express our strong support for House Bill H 7485, relating to Emergency Medical Transportation Services and the establishment of a Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) / Community Paramedicine program in Rhode Island.

The Town of Cumberland has already taken meaningful steps toward implementing Mobile Integrated Healthcare services for our residents. Our department has developed and operated a Mobile Integrated Health program designed to address gaps in care for vulnerable patients, reduce unnecessary emergency department utilization, and provide proactive support for residents with complex medical and social needs. This program has demonstrated clear value for both patients and the broader healthcare system. However, our ability to sustain these services has relied primarily on limited grant funding, which has now been exhausted. Without a reliable reimbursement model, programs like ours face significant barriers to continuing and expanding these essential services.

House Bill H 7485 provides a critical solution by establishing a statewide framework for Mobile Integrated Healthcare and requiring health insurers to cover and reimburse these services when delivered by approved EMS agencies. The bill recognizes that EMS professionals can play an important role in delivering patient-centered healthcare in the community and supports collaboration with physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to address unmet healthcare needs outside of the hospital setting.

For Cumberland residents, passage of this legislation would create a sustainable path forward for our existing Mobile Integrated Health program. It would allow our department to continue providing preventative, community-based care that keeps residents healthier, reduces unnecessary hospital visits, and ensures that EMS resources are used more efficiently. This bill represents an important step in modernizing the EMS system in Rhode Island and aligning it with evolving models of community-based healthcare delivery.

We respectfully urge the committee to support and advance H 7485.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your continued commitment to strengthening healthcare services for Rhode Island residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Dessert".

Scott Dessert, RN, BSN, NRP

Chief, Cumberland Emergency Medical Services