



# BRISTOL FIRE & RESCUE

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April 13, 2026

Re: Senate Bill 2026- S2685

Committee Chair and members,

Please accept this letter in support of S2685. The healthcare system is overwhelmed, and local fire and emergency medical service agencies are filling a gap by providing mobile integrated healthcare in our communities.

Repeat users of the EMS system often are our most vulnerable populations. This bill would provide supportive funding for the services through the insurance reimbursement process that are considered not reimbursable. The service is provided regularly by many agencies; thus, reimbursement is essential to support the beneficial work provided by EMS agencies for those in need.

Mobile integrated healthcare services provide an opportunity to reach our senior and vulnerable populations to aid them prior to illnesses progressing to advanced stages. Consequently, this will reduce some of the burden on the healthcare system by decreasing emergency room visits and reducing costs for all.

This is a nationwide issue, and we can lead the pack by providing support for these vital services.

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated support for S2685.

Sincerely,

Michael A. DeMello

Fire Chief/Paramedic

President of the RI Association of Fire Chiefs

Second Vice President of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs