



# Prudence Island Volunteer Fire Department

PO Box 305, Prudence Island, RI 02872

March 15, 2026

Rhode Island General Assembly

Re: Support for Senate Bill S2685

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill S2685, which would allow EMS agencies to be reimbursed for Community Health and Treatment-in-Place services.

Currently, EMS agencies are only reimbursed when a patient is transported to a hospital. This legislation recognizes the evolving role of EMS and supports programs that allow EMTs and paramedics to provide appropriate care in the home, preventing unnecessary emergency department visits while improving patient outcomes.

Programs like the Prudence Island Volunteer Fire Department's Community Health initiative demonstrate the value of this model. Services include preventive care, hospital follow-up visits, chronic disease management, medication compliance, aging-in-place support, and home safety and fall prevention. Since March 2025, the department has completed 168 visits, with 37 patients receiving services. These efforts help residents remain safely in their homes while reducing strain on the healthcare system.

Allowing reimbursement for these services will help sustain and expand programs that improve access to care, particularly in rural and island communities where healthcare resources are limited.

Thank you for your consideration and for your support of Rhode Island's EMS providers and the patients they serve.

Sincerely,

Chris DaCosta  
Assistant Chief  
Prudence Island, RI