



TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RI

Emergency Medical Services



CRAIG E. STANLEY
CHIEF OF EMS

Chairperson and members of the committee,

4/13/2026

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill 2685

My name is Craig E. Stanley, and I serve as the Chief of Emergency Medical Services for the Town of South Kingstown, I am here today to respectfully urge your support for Senate Bill 2685. This essential bill would authorize community paramedic programs to bill for services provided within the community, including treatment in place.

The community paramedic program is a vital bridge between emergency services and preventative healthcare. A community paramedic program extends care beyond the traditional 911 emergency response by providing in-home care, chronic disease management, post-hospital discharge follow-ups, mental health support, preventative health education and fall prevention. These services not only improve patient outcomes but also significantly reduce unnecessary emergency room visits and hospital readmissions, saving taxpayer dollars and preserving critical emergency resources for true emergencies.

Establishing reimbursement for these services allows EMS agencies to expand programs that improve patient outcomes while helping reduce unnecessary emergency department visits. It also supports vulnerable populations, including seniors and patients with chronic medical conditions, by allowing paramedics to connect them with the right care before their condition becomes an emergency. From an operational standpoint, sustainable funding ensures EMS agencies can continue to respond to emergencies while also investing in innovative programs that strengthen the healthcare system overall. Community paramedicine helps close gaps in care, support hospitals, and ensure patients receive timely treatment in the most appropriate setting. Community paramedicine is also designed to complement work of primary care physicians by helping patients stay connected to their doctors, identifying issues early, and ensuring they receive the right care, again before a condition becomes an emergency.

EMS is often the front door to the healthcare system. Community paramedicine allows paramedics to provide care where patients need it most often right in their homes while reducing unnecessary emergency department visits. Establishing reimbursement for these services helps modernize EMS and ensure we can continue developing innovative programs that will benefit patients and the healthcare system throughout Rhode Island.

In South Kingstown, we have seen firsthand how community paramedics help some of our most vulnerable residents — seniors living alone, individuals with complex medical needs, and patients struggling with mental health or substance use disorders. These programs empower people to manage their health safely at home and prevent crisis situations that would otherwise demand more costly, acute interventions. The South Kingstown community paramedic program delivers critical services including:

- Post-hospital discharge follow-up
- In-home visits/medication reconciliation
- Primary Care referrals
- Telemedicine visits with healthcare practitioners

- In-home vaccination including flu and COVID
- Medication administration
- Identify high 911/ED utilizers to develop care plan to reduce frequency
- Behavioral health support
- Patient navigator
- Wound care
- Fall-Risk assessment
- In-home blood draws for ordered labs
- Perform 12-lead EKG

Investing in Community Paramedicine is a forward-thinking, cost-effective solution that strengthens public health, improves quality of life, and supports a more resilient healthcare system. With your support, we can expand these critical services and reach even more people who need help the most. We find our community paramedics are not just care givers but health navigators for the patients and families.

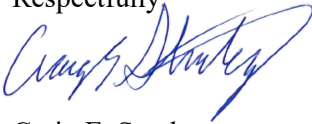
In the United States, 11,000 people a day turn 65 years old. Our community paramedics make home visits and provide risk assessments such as fall prevention. In 2025, EMS in Rhode Island responded to 22,763 falls in the geriatric population, a 6% increase from 2024. It is critical that we work to prevent falls for this population.

Rhode Island has already taken important steps through the Department of Health's support of mobile integrated health programs. Our MIH teams are addressing gaps in primary care access, chronic disease management, and behavioral health, all in the home or community setting.

The best response to a 911 call is one that is prevented. Community paramedic programs are the future of EMS.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your commitment to the health and safety of our community. I welcome any questions you may have.

Respectfully



Craig E. Stanley,
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