



Norwich Emergency Medical Services

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Director Chrissy Bartel, EMT-P/IC

Date: January 31, 2023

To: The Honorable Adam Smith, Chairperson, House Committee on Taxation

From: Chrissy Bartel, Director, Norwich Ambulance Service

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for House Bill 2066. My name is Chrissy Bartel. I am the EMS director for Norwich Ambulance Service.

I have served in EMS for 21 years with Norwich Ambulance Service. I started as a volunteer and then became the first paid employee. My role transitioned into administration in 2012 when I became the fulltime paid director for our volunteer agency. Also, I am the only paramedic for our department, the rest of the personnel are comprised of EMTs and one AEMT.

Norwich Ambulance Service personnel is comprised of volunteers. Recently, we have had to find room in the budget to hire a part time EMT to work two 12 hour shifts a week. This was an effort to try to provide the mandated 24/7 coverage. The rest of the shifts are covered by myself and a dwindling volunteer roster. It is becoming increasingly difficult to be able to cover the volunteer on call time. It is not uncommon for my volunteers to cover between 100-200 hours a month.

Unfortunately, this staffing struggle is not unique to my department. Agencies across the state are struggling. There has become a tremendous downturn in volunteers that are willing and able to serve on the local ambulance service. Many departments have had to close their doors due to no staffing and others are working diligently to try to hold together a department with minimal staff. It is becoming a bleak outlook for volunteer agencies.

I appreciate your willingness to seek an answer to volunteer EMS recruitment and retainment. HB 2066 is an attempt to provide a solution to the volunteer shortage that is impacting Kansas EMS. Communities across our state are struggling to continue to provide EMS services to the citizens. It is critical that we begin to look for solutions and answers to provide support to EMS services across the state.

Chrissy Bartel
Director
Norwich Ambulance Service