



KANSAS EMS ASSOCIATION
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Unity Is Strength

February 17, 2023

To: Chairwoman Sen. Tyson and members of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

From: David Adams, President of Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association

The Kansas EMS Association (KEMSA) represents over 2,300 EMS professionals and 117 EMS agencies in Kansas; we represent agencies that are volunteer, privately owned and operated, hospital based, combined Fire and EMS or municipally run departments. As such, KEMSA understands the various types of services we represent as well the many challenges our industry faces; including reimbursements equal to our costs and finances within our departments but also those who govern us.

Most, if not all, Kansas EMS agencies are funded by the taxpayers via the ad valorem taxes or sales tax and go to great lengths to keep our burden on the local taxpayers as low as possible. Interfacility transfers are, for many of our agencies, a significant source of income and an opportunity to better serve our citizens. Emergency Medical Services which are operating in our counties have 2 missions: answer the 9-1-1 calls for acute emergencies while also providing interfacility transfers from one medical facility to another. We have been confronted by private agencies who come into our communities and offer a lower quality transfer component only targeting this portion of service we provide. Private companies are already able to keep their costs lower than those of our municipally funded agencies by limiting the equipment, training, and staffing levels as they do not need to concern themselves with the 9-1-1 aspect of Emergency Medical Service. Reducing taxes, they pay will further their advantage over municipal services.

The Kansas EMS Association is opposed to SB 252 as it would allow private organizations an easier path into our counties to compete against those of us who serve all citizens 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Taking away interfacility transfers and the income they provide, would not only be detrimental to all municipal services who perform them, but devastating to many. This bill would also negatively impact our tax base as the private, for-profit businesses would not have to contribute ad valorem taxes or sales tax dollars into our local economies. This loss of revenue to the county tax base would further cripple the funding of our local EMS, fire, and law enforcement departments who depend on the funding to operate at the level that is expected of them by their communities.

Thank you for your consideration on this most important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

David A Adams, KEMSA President