



K A N S A S

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KANSAS BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Date: February 10, 2005
To: Dr. Jim Morrison, Chair and Members
House Health and Human Services Committee
From: Dennis Allin M.D., Chairman, Shawnee, Kansas, representing Kansas Board of EMS
RE: Proponent Testimony on HB2158

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for providing this opportunity to speak in support of HB 2158. The issues addressed in this legislation have occupied the thoughtful consideration of the Board of EMS for many months through public Board of EMS committee meetings as well as meetings between myself and members of the EMS public. We have reached unanimous agreement that the proposed changes to the current statute 65-6129 best serves the EMS public as well as the public at large.

This bill serves only to make the certification process more user-friendly and consistent in the following ways:

- I. Increasing the length of time a candidate has to make application for certification from one year to two years from the date of last class of a course of instruction approved by the Board. This is being recommended to match the time-frame allowed by the National Registry of EMT's, the organization we currently use for the initial testing of our students.
- II. Increasing the length of a temporary certification from 1 year to 2 years. This is more consistent with our standard re-certification process.
- III. Removing the STATE requirement for an MICT to be first certified as an EMT. The NREMT requires that MICT applicants be certified as an EMT and this proposed change will allow us some flexibility with regard to the MICT/RN bridge program developed by our agency.
- IV. Allowing the Board to issue a temporary certification to an individual, rather than a service. This allows the provider increased professional freedom in their practice not afforded them when a service holds their temporary certification.

Finally, it should be made clear that, although requirements for certification are outlined in this bill, in no way is the scope or the authority of the State Board of EMS increased. K.S.A. 65-6129, as it currently exists, already charges the Board of EMS with defining the equivalency of other state's

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programs to our own. The proposed bill simply contains clearer, more concise language than what currently exists with the specifics of equivalency to be determined through agency regulations, which will have their own public input and scrutiny.

Again, Thank You for the opportunity to provide this testimony.