



<http://www.marc.org/Emergency-Services-9-1-1/MARCER>

To: Senate Committee on Local Government

RE: Opposition to SB 384

From: Jeff Boss, Chair MARCER, EMS Battalion Chief Med-Act, Jeff.Boss@jocogov.org

Date: January 27, 2024

MARCER opposes the passage of SB 384.

Mid- America Regional Council (MARC) is the bi-state council of local governments serving nine area counties in the KS/MO area of Kansas City. MARC has a subcommittee regarding emergency medical services, (MARCER) consisting of over 35 area EMS agencies and 20 hospitals that collaborate through MARCER for various issues such as communications, disaster planning, hospital diversion, TCD, group purchasing and numerous policy initiatives.

The issues presented in SB 384 have been a point of discussion in the legislature for several years. It has long been our understanding that the focus of any legislation would be to deal with the problem of staffing BLS, interfacility transfers in rural areas of western Kansas.

MARCER opposes SB 384's inclusion of urban and suburban areas as well as the inclusion of emergency calls.

The present language would create confusion in urban and suburban areas with cities of less than 50,000 situated in the metropolitan area. We are unaware of staffing issues for ambulance services in the metro area that would warrant any change in state law. Assuring the safe and competent handling patients being treated and transported is of the utmost concern and changes to long held standards should be only considered when the problem is well defined and other opportunities have been exhausted.

We oppose any change to state standards that could lead to the minimalization of the quality of EMS staff responding to emergency situations. We are unaware of any problems with this issue in the metropolitan area and yet SB 384 proposes a change with the standards of response to any type of ambulance service request.

We do not profess to be experts regarding ambulance service operations and challenge in rural Kansas, but we absolutely reject the premise of SB 384 that major changes to state standards regarding EMS operations are required in our region.

If the legislature were to establish a work group to study this issue, we would welcome the opportunity to offer our assistance to such an effort but as proposed, MARCER opposes the passage of SB 384.

