

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

### RS21494

This resolution endorses the Idaho Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) efforts to address the concerns surrounding the recruitment, education, and retention of volunteer EMS providers in Idaho, with a focus on rural areas. Emergency medical services comprise a system of care for victims of sudden and serious injury or illness. It is estimated that the average U.S. citizen will require the services of an ambulance at least twice in the course of their lives. Thus, the existence of effective EMS agencies is crucial in rural and frontier areas.

Rural EMS agencies face substantial hardships. Few rural communities have paid EMS personnel, depending instead upon volunteers, who often work full-time in non-EMS related vocations within the community, yet continue to donate their personal time to provide pre-hospital care and receive training.

In order to ensure the continuance of rural EMS agencies, town hall meetings will be conducted to solicit comments regarding current rural EMS agencies' challenges and to collect important recommendations for changes that must occur if rural EMS agencies are to remain viable.

### FISCAL NOTE

No impact to the General Fund. The EMS Bureau will fund the costs of these meetings.

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