

**Federation of State Medical Boards  
House of Delegates Meeting  
April 22, 2017**

Subject: Advocacy for Professional Licensure of EMS Providers  
Introduced by: Montana Board of Medical Examiners  
Approved: January 2017

---

- Whereas,** The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) has long advocated for physician leadership within the House of Medicine; and
- Whereas,** Emergency medical services (EMS) providers function with the oversight and direction of physicians, not in a manner of independent practice; and
- Whereas,** The relationship between Physician Medical Directors and EMS providers is critical to the safe, appropriate and efficacious provision of care to all patients and ensures quality of care and training; and
- Whereas,** Paramedic practice was born out of delegated physician practice, similar to the origin of physician assistants who now enjoy the privilege and responsibility of professional licensure; and
- Whereas,** EMS provider practice is expected to continue to expand in scope and to carry increased responsibility, similar to the expanding scopes of other medical professionals; and
- Whereas,** In 2017, the emerging practice of Community Paramedicine/Community Health EMS is generally recognized by the healthcare community and necessitates the critical role of the physician in defining and guiding the practice of these providers; and
- Whereas,** Numerous states currently support prehospital providers practicing “critical care transport” in ambulances and aircraft, often without defined and regulated education or competencies; and
- Whereas,** The *EMS Educational Agenda for the Future*, a longstanding national visionary document guiding the future of out-of-hospital care, advocates professional licensure of EMS providers such as paramedics; and
- Whereas,** The field of prehospital medicine as a professional healthcare discipline is in its 50<sup>th</sup> year, with the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) now recognizing the EMS physician as a subspecialty discipline; and

**Whereas,** The participation of EMS professionals on and with professional licensing boards emphasizes that EMS is primarily a medical function within the entire continuum of professional healthcare; and

**Whereas,** Professional licensure of EMS providers as medical professionals within the healthcare continuum will ensure fair and consistent standards, discipline and oversight by physicians at state and local levels;

Therefore, be it hereby

**Resolved,** That the FSMB adopt a position supporting professional licensure of paramedics and other advanced life support EMS providers under the authority of state medical boards; and be it further

**Resolved,** That the FSMB coordinate and collaborate with individual state medical boards and other stakeholders to develop model statutory language for states to utilize in adopting a professional licensing process and standards for EMS providers.