

January 15, 2021

Honorable Senator Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

Re: State Senate bill 67, Emergency Medical Services – Paramedics – Vaccination Administration, by the Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request of Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems)

Dear Senator Pinsky:

On behalf of American Medical Response, business owner providing healthcare in Maryland with offices in Elkridge, Baltimore and Lansdowne, MD, I am offering support for Senate Bill 67, to permit Paramedic clinicians practicing in the State of Maryland to administer vaccines in accordance with the bill, as potentially modified by MIEMSS' request to include the FDA's Emergency Use Authorized Vaccinations.

During this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the entire health care system has been stretched thin. Providing a bill that recognizes an already established paramedic skill and increases the number of individuals who can administer vaccines into our Maryland communities is absolutely the right measure to take. MIEMSS is commended in bringing this bill forward.

As part of a nation-wide and global organization, the Global Medical Response has witnessed and participated first hand in the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. We have seen reduced lines and greater coverage in those states that allow paramedics to conduct vaccinations. In fact, in at least 2 states, we have had great success with trained and experienced Emergency Medical Technicians administering these vaccines under the supervision of paramedics and/or registered nurses. GMR would encourage amending the language to allow an even broader scope for EMTs that have been properly trained and meet an experience threshold.

Additionally, inclusion of language that defines the Paramedics within this Bill as Physician Extenders would be extremely useful to the healthcare system. This definition is specifically referred to within the medical billing industry. Commercial ambulance companies have worked side-by-side with hospitals, departments of health, EMS agencies, and others to provide care to these patients and have been denied the opportunity to seek reimbursement due to this exclusive definition. At times, commercial ambulance companies are forgotten as being a vital part of the patient movement and care cycle. These providers have experienced the same risks, if not higher due to confined space, as all healthcare workers and are highly involved in ensuring patients are cared for and delivered to location where their outcome can be at the highest level possible.

We ask that you vote to support Senate bill 67 and ask that you please respond accordingly.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,



Anna B. Gainor, NRP
Operations Manager
Capital Region - Maryland
American Medical Response