

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2013-202

REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR TO CONDUCT AN INTERIM STUDY TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR A SCOPE OF PRACTICE CHANGE IN THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NEW LICENSURE OF COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC.

WHEREAS, community paramedicine increases patient access to primary and preventative care, provides wellness interventions within the medical home model, decreases emergency department utilization, saves healthcare dollars, and improves patient outcomes; and

WHEREAS, community paramedics serve an expanded role to include the post-hospital environment as well as the pre-hospital environment; and

WHEREAS, some residents in rural Arkansas often must travel great distances, at great expense, to receive even the most basic care, and a community paramedic can provide outreach to patients who are at-risk for using the emergency medical system for primary care services, to help them find more appropriate resources for their medical needs; and

WHEREAS, hospitals are financially penalized for high readmission rates, and a community paramedic who can check on a patient immediately after discharge, provide in-home patient education, coordinate with the patient's physician, and/or help transition the patient to an established home health agency is an effective resource for reducing unnecessary readmissions; and

WHEREAS, successful community paramedic programs augment the healthcare services available locally by collaborating with other healthcare providers to fill gaps in community healthcare resources,

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

1 THAT the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee
2 conduct an interim study to determine the need for a scope of practice change
3 in the Emergency Medical Services Act to establish the new licensure of
4 Community Paramedic.

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6 Respectfully submitted,

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10 Representative Kelley Linck
11 District 99

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14 By: MGF/CLW
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