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Montana Emergency Medical Services Association

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February 18,

SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY	
EXHIBIT NO.	<u>4</u>
DATE:	<u>2-18-05</u>
BILL NO.	<u>58448</u>

Senate Committee on Health, Welfare and Safety
Senate Bill 448

I am Sally Buckles from Boulder. I serve as President of the Montana Emergency Medical Services Association and I am speaking in favor of Senate Bill 448. A bill to change only the location of where EMT's can practice their skills.

In 1978 it was not unusual for EMTs to be met at the emergency room door by nurses who would take over the cot and the patient and order the crew to the waiting room to wait for the cot.

In a short time, attitudes changed and good rapport was established between the hospitals and EMS. We are proud to be a part of a complete Emergency Medical Services System that provides care to the sick and injured from pre-hospital through rehabilitation.

EMS people have skills that can be used in the Emergency Department and this is recognized by hospital staff members. Many hospital Emergency Departments have a shortage of nurses and the ability of those facilities to hire qualified people is currently limited. Many EMS people have a limited number of ambulance calls and, therefore, patient care in the Emergency Department can only benefit the EMT, the hospital and the patient.

The potential for small hospitals to hire a Paramedic to help staff the Emergency Department would also bring another qualified individual to the community who could volunteer on the local ambulance. Thus, helping communities in more than one way.

The Montana Emergency Medical Services Association requests your support of this bill.

