



January 23, 2011

Chairman McNutt and House Appropriations Committee Members,

The Montana Emergency Medical Services Association represents around 20 services and 600 members throughout the State of Montana would like to thank Representative Diane Sands for introducing **HB 262** that makes permanent the Emergency Medical Service providers grant program with funding from the unrestricted funds provided each year to the Montana Department of Transportation.

In the 1960's the Federal Department of Transportation developed Emergency Medical Services, as it is now known. They provided grant funding for ambulances, EMT training and equipment. That funding soon went away and since then ambulance services have struggled to provide the necessary personnel and equipment needed to maintain pre-hospital care in their communities.

The Montana Emergency Medical Services Association and their members request your support in making Section 12, Chapter 437 permanent. The passage in 2009 of the act, which provided the Grant Program to Montana EMS services and providers, was an important step to assisting local services. The extension of this program is very important for small communities to be able to continue their service.

Respectfully,

Jayne L. Rogers

MEMSA President

Montana Emergency Medical Services Association
PO Box 73, Basin, MT 59631 406-202-3733
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January 19, 2011

Lindsay Spurlock
375 Stafford Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718

Diane Sands
4487 Nicole Court
Missoula, MT 59803-2791

Dear Mrs. Sands:

I am writing in regards to House Bill 262. The funds provided to volunteer medical services are extremely important for these units to keep their equipment up to date to be able to respond to medical emergencies. Many of the EMS units in Montana are volunteer units due to the rural nature of our great state. I am an EMT for a company in a rural area and we rely on the volunteer services of our community EMS. I ask for your support in passing this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lindsay Spurlock". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Lindsay Spurlock