

**From:** [donotreply@legmt.gov](mailto:donotreply@legmt.gov)  
**To:** [LEG Cmte-EAICcomment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for EAIC  
**Date:** Monday, September 25, 2023 9:57:21 AM

---

# Public Comments for Economic Affairs Interim Committee

**Date:** 25th September 2023 09:57

**First Name:**

Doug

**Last Name:**

Pugh

**Email Address:**

highvoltage1@yahoo.com

**Subject:**

House Bill for Medicare ground ambulance

**Comment:**

Safeguards against mis-use? When services are paid by third party, there become incentive to mis-use services. EMS personnel can become patients "best friends/only outside contacts" and get called by lonely patients needing company. EMS gets called to clean litter boxes, do laundry, and non-EMS activities? EMS gets called for routine doctor appointment travel. I've seen a propensity for mis-use of EMS services by people who don't PAY for the mis-use. Who is responsible for protecting the taxpayer from mis-use costs? EMS need to be paid a descent wage for the skills they possess and the risks they endure. There is no monetary incentive to undertake the burden of the EMS profession when the lowest paid position at COSTCO is paid significantly more and has benefits and regular hours and much less responsibility. There is no reason to become EMS when the profession is not respected or financially rewarded for the risks and skills required. EMS professionals are regulated, however EMS leadership is free to operate without strict professional oversight. Funding for equipment and structures needs to be put in place for all counties. Need professional EMS managers for each county.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/committees/interim/eaic/public-comments-eaic/](https://leg.mt.gov/committees/interim/eaic/public-comments-eaic/)