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Dennis Allin, M.D., Chair
Steven Sutton, Executive Director

**Board of
Emergency Medical Services**

Sam Brownback, Governor

Testimony

Date: March 7, 2011

To: House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Marc Rhoades, Chairman

From: Steve Sutton, Executive Director

Re: FY 2012 Budget

Chairman Rhoades and members of the House Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services for the FY 2012 Budget. My name is Steve Sutton, and I am the Executive Director for the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services (KBEMS).

Funding Source

SB 312 passed by the 2004 Kansas Legislature gave the Board of EMS permanent funding in the amount of .25% from Premiums from Fire Insurance Premium Receipts. Along with this amount, the Board of Emergency Medical Services through 2008 SB 534, is allowed to keep all fees collected throughout the fiscal year.

Budget Adjustments

As the Executive Director of the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services and on their behalf, I am requesting that this Committee give further consideration to the Governor's recommendation of reducing 1.00 FTE position from the Board beginning in FY 2012, which would bring the total number of FTE positions for the Board to 13.00 FTE positions in FY 2012. I would ask that this position be retained.

In February of 2010, the KBEMS' Executive Director resigned. The Board immediately appointed the Deputy Director to serve as Interim Director. As this was a temporary appointment, the Deputy Director position stood vacant during the period of time that the Board conducted a National search for a new Executive Director. This process took approximately eight months.

The duties of this vacant position were prioritized, and high priority tasks were disseminated to other staff. But in doing that, many other tasks including technical assistance and support to ambulance services, training programs, governing entities or the communities that they serve have not received the attention they need during this time of transition. As KBEMS is a small agency, each staff member is responsible for a unique segment. No one else performs the same job. Even though many are cross-trained, losing a position would be detrimental to the functionality of the Board.

Appropriations Committee

Date March 9, 2011

Attachment 4