

Wisconsin EMS Association  
Serving Those Who Serve Others



Wednesday, March 31, 2021

Steve Peters, Chair  
Administrator  
Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Division  
201 E. Washington Ave.  
Madison WI 53702

Dear Mr. Peters and Members of the Advisory Council,

As the Executive Director and on behalf of the Wisconsin EMS Association (WEMSA) and the over 6,000 members and 360 EMS departments we serve - I am writing to request that the Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Advisory Council include in its deliberations and proposed legislative bill updates, changes to the conditions of liability for worker's compensation benefits for all licensed emergency medical service (EMS) providers who serve a licensed EMS department who are diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), similar to what the Council agreed to and proposed for law enforcement officers and firefighters (public safety officers) as provided in 2021 Assembly Bill 17 \ Senate Bill 11.

While the Council's original proposal and what is provided in 2021 AB-17 \ SB-11 does include some emergency medical services (EMS) and their EMS providers due to a connection or affiliation with a fire department – most EMS services are “stand alone,” meaning they are not affiliated with a fire department.

Further, nearly 75 percent of Wisconsin's EMS services are staffed by volunteers that donate their time or are paid a very small stipend to provide the same emergency care as their EMS-firefighter affiliated contemporaries. All volunteer services also pay for workers compensation insurance. And like our law enforcement, firefighter, and firefighter-EMS colleagues – stand-alone services experience the same work-related challenges and risks serving in the emergency first responder capacity. In fact, studies of emergency medical providers/ ambulance personnel have shown higher estimated rates of PTSD prevalence.

Simply put – it is about recognizing that all EMS providers are essential first responders that face similar experiences and work-related hardships, regardless of if they are employed by a municipal or private-sector based EMS service.

Again, on behalf of the Wisconsin EMS Association membership we request that all EMS services and their EMS staff be afforded the same conditions of worker's compensation benefits for EMS who are diagnosed with PTSD. The Council has already agreed to such provisions for emergency medical providers that serve on EMS services affiliated with a fire department – along with law enforcement and fire.

Thank you,  
Alan DeYoung  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin EMS Association  
26422 Oakridge Dr  
Wind Lake, WI 53185

26422 Oakridge Drive, Wind Lake, WI 53185-1402  
414-431-8193 | [www.WisconsinEMS.com](http://www.WisconsinEMS.com)