

# South Carolina Rural EMS Coalition

## **Position Statement EMS Advisory Council Representation**

### ABSTRACT

The South Carolina DHEC EMS Division uses an advisory council to provide input and expertise for the agency. This council is composed of various representatives of organizations and groups with bona fide interests in the state's EMS system. The National Rural Health Association has identified a problem with these types of councils when adequate representation is not provided for rural EMS services. Currently there is no designated representative to speak for Rural EMS. In fact, most of the members of the council are from urban areas even though most of the state is rural. When there is unequal representation, decisions made by the group tend to be made with a "one size fits all" mentality. Some decisions may work well for all organizations, but some may be more difficult for smaller more rural providers to deal with. Decisions would be more valid if representation of all groups could be achieved.

### POSITION

The membership of the South Carolina Rural EMS Coalition has agreed with the following statements.

1. DHEC EMS should endeavor to have a board with diversity including representation equal to that of the services represented.
2. Organizations represented on the advisory council should be sensitive to the need for diversity and equal representation for all groups including rural EMS. Further, groups should rotate designated members of the council.
3. DHEC EMS should take a lead in pursuing the changes to laws and/or regulations needed to enact the changes suggested here.
3. Specifically, a seat should be created for a representative from the South Carolina Rural EMS Coalition.

The South Carolina Rural EMS Coalition membership requests that responsible agencies and organizations cosign and express their support for the above position. We believe that the above position is in the best interest of patients and health care providers and should be instituted as soon as practical.

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