



Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice  
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Dear Colleagues,

If your state is not already a member of the EMS Compact, I invite you to consider joining. Our EMS Compact Commission and EMS Compact Educator are ready to help you with information and support about how to enter the Compact. ***The goal is clear- we want all 50 states to become members of the EMS Compact.***

The EMS Compact is all about improving access to emergency care and reducing barriers. The EMS Compact holds the promise of affording patients along state borders better access to qualified EMS personnel. EMS personnel in member states will receive immediate legal recognition of the license they hold when their duties require them to cross state borders into another member state. Qualified military veterans and their spouses receive expedited EMS license application processing. At the state EMS office level, you will have full access to data about personnel who have had actions taken on their license in other Compact states. You will also be better able to protect your citizens by halting the practice of out of state EMS personnel for cause even though you did not issue them a license.

Today I want to remove a barrier to Compact membership that we have heard about from a few states. Concerns have been raised about language in the EMS Compact legislation that grants authority to the EMS Compact Commission to make rules. Some have said this authority is unconstitutional. In an effort to remove this barrier to states entering the EMS Compact, we have sought a legal opinion from the Council of State Government's Special Counsel. That opinion is attached for your review. The Council of State Governments is a non-partisan group that assists state legislators, governors and other state level officials. Their mission in serving states makes them an unbiased source of this information. Their legal opinion on this matter is unambiguous and includes references to the relevant court case decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Please feel free to share this opinion with legislators, your attorneys general and others who may be involved in sponsoring or reviewing EMS Compact legislation in your state. If you or others in your state have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact me or our EMS Compact Educator, Dan Manz.

Sincerely,

Joseph Schmider, Chair

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