



National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
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April 23, 2019

Dear Keith,

On behalf of the NAEMT Board of Directors, thank you very much for the opportunity to provide initial comment to the revision of the National EMS Education Standards.

Our Board is fully cognizant of the importance of the National EMS Education Standards in determining how EMTs and paramedics are prepared to perform their roles. In fact, one of NAEMT's core values is the belief that National EMS Education Standards are essential to the consistent delivery of high quality, evidence-based EMS. We also understand that the National EMS Education Standards are designed to support the National EMS Scope of Practice Model.

Prior to the commencement of the revision process for the Scope of Practice Model, NAEMT recommended to NASEMSO that all EMS agencies from all delivery models be surveyed to determine the extent to which the current EMS workforce is able to perform the work that EMS agencies are charged with carrying out. We believe that understanding what knowledge, skills and abilities those who hire EMTs and paramedics are seeking in their personnel is absolutely critical to building and sustaining an EMS workforce capable of fulfilling all of the responsibilities of EMS in our communities.

We believe that this step is essential when considering revisions to the National EMS Education Standards. In most other professions, universities and other educational institutions routinely meet with industry leaders to understand their hiring needs as a precursor to undertaking the development or revision of curriculum intended to prepare individuals for those professions. We believe that this step has been missing from the EMS profession and we urge you to consider incorporating this step into the revision process for the National EMS Education Standards. While we appreciate the use of "EMS stakeholder" meetings as a vehicle to obtain industry feedback, we do not believe that this approach is an effective mechanism to collect industry input for a project as critical to the industry as the National EMS Education Standards.

Many of our Board members are responsible for hiring EMS personnel and would be willing to share with you their thoughts on the challenges they face in hiring qualified personnel. However, we strongly advocate for a national survey of all EMS agencies, the results from which can be used to inform the revision process.

We also believe that the EMT and paramedic task analysis being conducted by NREMT must also be used to inform the revision process. The National EMS Education Standards should not be revised until such time as the NREMT task analysis is completed.

We were not informed as to how the schedule for the revision was developed, but we sincerely hope that this revision process will not be carried out without the essential data that is needed from a national survey of EMS agencies and the results of the NREMT task analysis.

We strongly recommend that the revision of the National EMS Education Standards consider both initial and continuing education to ensure that our EMS workforce can truly meet the evolving needs of emergent, urgent and preventive care that our communities deserve.

NAEMT appreciates this opportunity to comment and welcomes any questions and/or further discussion on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Zavadsky", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matt Zavadsky, MS-HSA, NREMT
President, NAEMT