



**Assembly Health and Human Services Committee Testimony
Fred Wagar, VFW Department of Nevada Southern State Legislative Chair and
DAV Department of Nevada Benefits Protection Team (Legislative) Lead
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 24**

April 28, 2025

Chair Brown May, Vice Chair Nguyen and members of the Assembly Health and Human Service Committee. My name is Fred Wagar (W.A.G.A.R.) and I am the Southern Nevada State Legislative Chair for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Benefits Protection Team Lead for the Nevada Department of the Disabled American Veterans. I want to thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of Nevada Senate Bill 24 (SB24).

I want to thank the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Services for bringing this issue forward.

This legislation provides provisions to address the unique circumstances and challenges veterans face when seeking certification as Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs). By mandating the collection and reporting of key data regarding veterans in this process, SB24 champions transparency, accountability, and the continued support of those who have dedicated themselves to service.

Transitioning from military to civilian life is often a challenging journey. For veterans aspiring to careers in emergency medical services (EMS), navigating certification requirements, understanding state protocols, and aligning military medical training with civilian standards can be daunting. SB24 aims to illuminate these obstacles by compiling data that identifies recurring patterns, hurdles, and areas where improvements are needed.

Considering the nationwide shortage of EMS personnel, Nevada can greatly benefit from encouraging veterans to join its emergency medical services. Veterans bring unique experience, discipline, and commitment to public service. SB24's focus on understanding and addressing veterans' certification experiences could help streamline processes, ultimately bolstering Nevada's EMS workforce.

We urge you to support SB24. This legislation includes an investment not only in the welfare of our veterans but also in the safety, efficiency, and resilience of Nevada's emergency medical systems.