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March 4, 2025

Dear House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

As the Mayor of Fossil, I am writing to support legislation that will fund Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) programs. These programs, also known as Community Paramedicine, bring healthcare to our community members at home, especially those with chronic illnesses and those who need it the most, while providing much needed relief to our local, volunteer ambulance service.

MIH programs use EMTs, paramedics, and community health workers to provide medical care, preventive services, and social support directly to patients. This approach reduces the need for emergency services and hospital visits, improving the quality of life for our residents.

House Bill 2222 aims to create a registry for MIH providers, allowing them to bill Medicaid for their services. This step is crucial to ensure MIH workers receive the support they need to continue their valuable work. Sustainable funding will help expand these programs and benefit our community for years to come.

I urge you to support this legislation and provide the necessary funding to sustain and grow MIH programs, especially here in Wheeler County. Together, we can improve health outcomes and accessibility for our county's most vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,

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Carol E. MacInnes, Mayor City of Fossil