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2 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2013-202
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4 REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND
5 LABOR TO CONDUCT AN INTERIM STUDY TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR A
6 SCOPE OF PRACTICE CHANGE IN THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ACT TO
7 ESTABLISH THE NEW LICENSURE OF COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC.
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9 WHEREAS, community paramedicine increases patient access to primary and
10 preventative care, provides wellness interventions within the medical home
11 model, decreases emergency department utilization, saves healthcare dollars,
12 and improves patient outcomes; and
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14 WHEREAS, community paramedics serve an expanded role to include the
15 post-hospital environment as well as the pre-hospital environment; and
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17 WHEREAS, some residents in rural Arkansas often must travel great
18 distances, at great expense, to receive even the most basic care, and a
19 community paramedic can provide outreach to patients who are at-risk for
20 using the emergency medical system for primary care services, to help them
21 find more appropriate resources for their medical needs; and
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23 WHEREAS, hospitals are financially penalized for high readmission
24 rates, and a community paramedic who can check on a patient immediately after
25 discharge, provide in-home patient education, coordinate with the patient's
26 physician, and/or help transition the patient to an established home health
27 agency is an effective resource for reducing unnecessary readmissions; and
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29 WHEREAS, successful community paramedic programs augment the healthcare
30 services available locally by collaborating with other healthcare providers
31 to fill gaps in community healthcare resources,
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33 NOW, THEREFORE,

34 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF
35 THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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1 THAT the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee
2 conduct an interim study to determine the need for a scope of practice change
3 in the Emergency Medical Services Act to establish the new licensure of
4 Community Paramedic.

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6 Respectfully submitted,

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10 Representative Kelley Linck

11 District 99

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14 By: MGF/CLW

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