

From: [NSHE](#)
To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Angela Palmer](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Workforce Committee, February 19, 2025
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 10:20:24 AM

External Email:

Public comment submitted through NSHE Online form

Public Comment for the Workforce Committee, February 19, 2025

Email: smead@tmcc.edu

Name: Stephanie Mead

Representing someone other than yourself?:

Meeting: Workforce Committee, February 19, 2025

Agenda Item: Credit for Prior Learning

In Favor / Opposed / Other: In Favor

Comment:

I work as the paramedic program director at TMCC. We currently offer an associates in applied science in prehospital emergency medicine. Currently, only students who have attended our program at TMCC can receive the degree. There are paramedics, currently certified in the field, that could be eligible for the degree if they take their course at another facility, as the curriculum is the same. Paramedic programs in the US have to be accredited under the The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and are required to provide a minimum standard for students. Since REMSA or other facilities/institutions/agencies who provide paramedic programs are also required to maintain the same curriculum and minimums, it would be appropriate to accept their certificates in lieu of the training we do at our program, as it is the same. Currently, with the way it stands, we can only accept a max of 16 credits. To become a paramedic, it takes 48-52 credits. There are approximately over 100 paramedics that work for regional fire and ems agencies that can benefit from receiving the degree. This will help improve the educational background of the providers that care for your loved ones. This will also increase pay which is much needed for EMS providers, especially in private ambulance agencies, as this is the biggest reason why there is a paramedic shortage, especially locally. This is supported by the local fire and EMS departments. In fact, many have reached out to our department in hopes of earning the degree with their previous completion certificates.

We would like the council to consider, when adding language for credit prior learning, that we can accept as many required credits that equal to the training of the institution to receive the

declared degree in addition to the residency credits and general education requirements. Thank you for your consideration as this would be a great benefit to those who seek higher learning opportunities.

Agreed that all the information above is true and accurate: Yes

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