



CLALLAM COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

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PORT ANGELES FIRE DEPT

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CCFD #3

December 7, 2011

The Honorable Representative Kevin Van De Wege, Email: vandewege.kevin@leg.wa.gov

The Washington Legislature Ways and Means Committee is hearing **House Bill 2141** on Thursday December 8, 2011; which is an Act relating to fees for emergency medical service providers.

The **Clallam County Fire Chiefs Association strongly opposes this legislation** primarily because there is no need for further laws to regulate the emergency medical field. Currently all Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) and Paramedics are licensed to work through local Medical Program Directors (Physicians). See the following link for detailed information: (https://www.nremt.org/nremt/downloads/MD_Instructions.pdf).

Furthermore, Washington Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics undergo rigorous didactic (classroom) and psychomotor (hands on skill) training and examination (https://www.nremt.org/nremt/about/exam_coord_man.asp). All EMT's and Paramedics must be certified through a National Registry which manages the certification and recertification process.

Currently over 92% of the firefighters in Clallam County are volunteers and statewide over 75% are volunteer – See the attached chart and following link: (<http://performance.wa.gov/FinalPublicSafety/PublicSafety062508/EmergencyManagement/Preparedness/BasicFireFighterProg/Documents/FireVolunteers2.pdf>).

The cost of the proposed licensure fees will create an adverse and negative environment for recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters and EMT's. Worse yet, the cost of the proposed fees will be passed on to local public and private Emergency Medical Service providers, many of which are ill equipped to pay additional fees due to declining tax revenues.

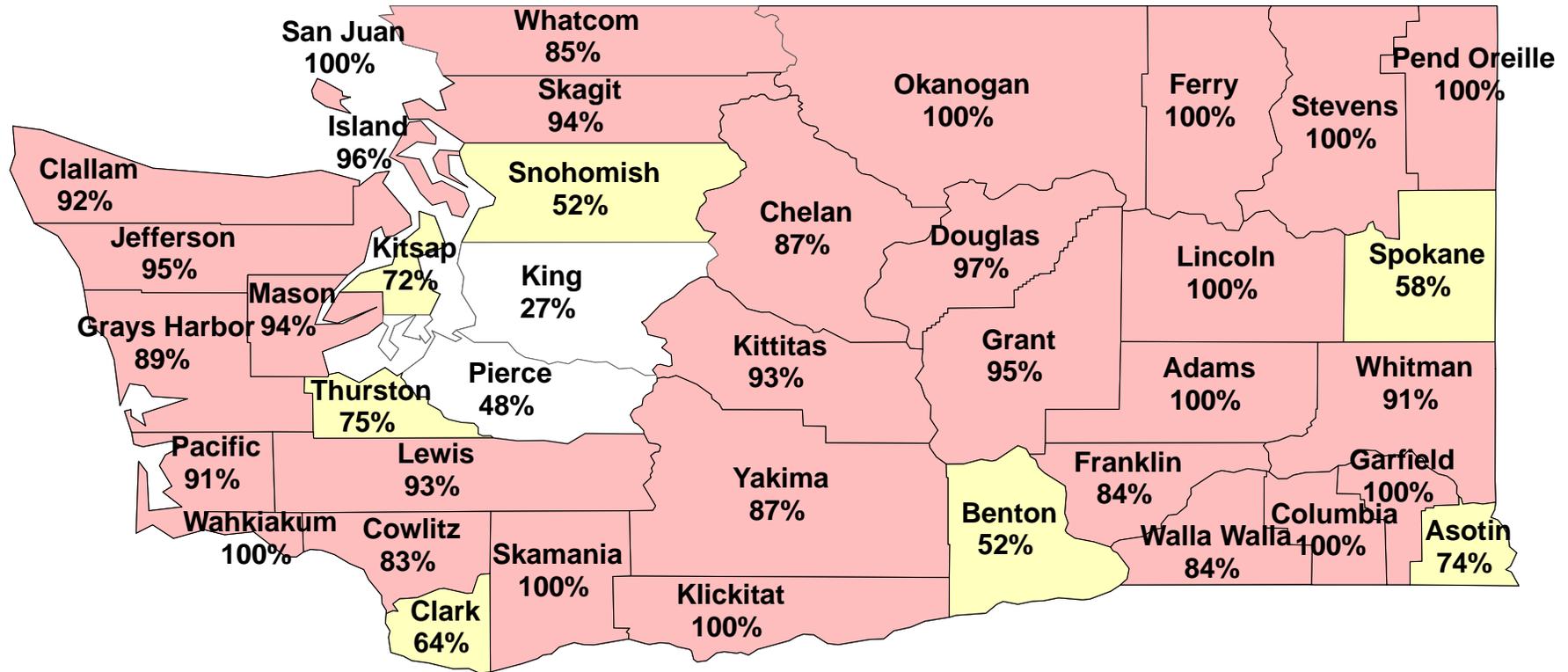
We urge you to vote no on House Bill 2141.

Sincerely,

Dan McKeen, President
Clallam County Fire Chiefs Association

Pc: CCFCA Members

Percent of Total Firefighters in Washington State that are Volunteer



Fire Departments Reporting*

15,413 Volunteer Firefighters
 6,331 Career Firefighters
 21,744 Total Firefighters



* Fire Departments includes both Districts and Departments