March 5, 2019

Chief Tom Mitchell,
North Carolina Office of EMS
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Service Regulation

Re: Rules Task Force

Dear Chief Mitchell,

As the largest paramedic-focused member-based organization in the United States, one of the collaborating associations for *EMS Agenda 2050* at the federal level, as well as one of the authoring organizations of the recently published *Joint Position Statement on Degree Requirements for Paramedics*, our organization has advocated for the advancement of the paramedic profession and paramedic practice throughout the nation. The International Association of Flight & Critical Care Paramedics wishes to express our support for the proposed North Carolina rule changes regarding the increased education requirements for future paramedics and Level-1 and Level-2 EMS instructors.

It is our firm belief that these proposed changes, recommended to take effect 7/1/2023, will benefit the paramedic profession as a whole. Paramedicine as a profession is evolving, and we feel that these proposed changes will not only improve the quality of paramedics and paramedic education programs across North Carolina but will exemplify the capabilities and professionalism of paramedics throughout the United States.

As an integral component of emergency medicine, it is essential that paramedics be valued the same way other professionals are in the industry. To earn that benefit paramedics must be prepared with a similar educational foundation as other members of our life-saving community. Establishing a minimum of an Associate's Degree for new paramedics while ensuring continued credentialing of all current paramedics would be a meaningful advancement that states across the nation should endeavor to follow.

Respectfully,

Ryan Walter, President