



## Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers

Aetna Ambulance :- Ambulance Service of Manchester :- American Ambulance Service  
American Medial Response :-Campion Ambulance Service :- Hunter's Ambulance Service

March 10, 2008

**Re: House Bill No. 5812 "AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS FOR PUBLIC USE."**

Senator Handley, Representative Sayers, distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, my name is David Lowell and I am president of the Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers (ACAP). ACAP is comprised of the six largest commercial ambulance companies who provide emergency and non-emergency ambulance and medical transportation services throughout the state of Connecticut.

I offer this written testimony in support of House Bill 5812 "*AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS FOR PUBLIC USE.*"

The members of our association provide emergency medical service in most of the major cities in our state. As a result, our companies are frequently engaged in planning and providing for emergency medical services at the site of large gatherings. Further, in the communities where we are not the primary service area responder, we are frequently relied upon to assist in the emergency medical services functions of these events directly, or as a mutual aid service.

Given that the municipality where the mass gathering is to occur has the overall authority to approve the applicant's plan, we offer a technical change in the wording (see attached), requiring consultation and input rather than approval from all of the primary service area responder(s) assigned in the municipality.

We believe that the availability and conspicuous signage of the on-site availability AED(s) is a valid practice for mass gatherings and we also support this section of the bill. As the number of lay people trained to used AED's continues to increase the access to the devices at mass gathering makes sense as the greatest chances for survival of a sudden cardiac arrest exist when CPR and defibrillation are initiated within the first 3-5 minutes of the arrest.

We urge your support to move this bill forward, and remain available for any questions that you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

David D. Lowell  
President

March 10, 2008

***Proposed language change to House Bill 5812***

Offered by the Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers

a written plan approved by the [primary services area responder] municipality in consultation with the primary service area responder(s), as defined in section 19a-175, in the location where the assembly is to be held, that indicates that the applicant has satisfactorily planned and arranged for the on-site availability of an emergency medical service organization, as defined in section 19a-175, during the duration of the assembly, and for the availability of one or more automatic external defibrillators, as defined in section 19a-175, with conspicuous signage that indicates the location of such defibrillators on the assembly grounds. [Prior to approving an applicant's plan, the primary services area responder may consult with the applicant, the designated emergency medical service organization and a sponsor hospital in the location where the assembly is to be held]; Prior to approving an applicant's plan, the municipality shall consult with the primary service area responder(s), the applicant, the designated emergency medical service organization, and a sponsor hospital in the jurisdiction where the assembly is to be held;

***[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]***