



Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers

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

**Testimony Before the Human Services Committee
March 17, 2009
In Support of Raised Bill (No 1113 AAC MEDICAID)**

Distinguished members of the Human Services 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 Raised Bill 1113 AAC MEDICAID, particularly sections 3 and 4.

Section 3 of this bill offers transparency in the Medicaid payment system. The members of our association are extremely concerned that the transportation brokers under contract with the Department of Social Services to coordinate transportation on behalf of Medicaid beneficiaries are commingling commercial monies with State monies. Although we believe this to be a specifically prohibited act, we have a strong sense that it is occurring. Our member companies have a long standing practice of contracting directly with commercial insurers to provide non emergency transportation services. We do not believe that there is any need for a middleman in the process of coordinating these services and feel strongly that the contractual relationship remain directly between the insurer and the transportation provider. Although we believe that the best case scenario would be to prohibit the brokers from contracting with commercial insurers, this proposed section causes the broker to disclose their source of reimbursement to the transportation provider. We believe that this will create a more level playing field and allow the transportation providers the opportunity to fairly negotiate equitable reimbursements for different payer categories of beneficiaries.

Section 4 of the bill will increase efficiencies in the payment system. This bill lists out those circumstances where pre-authorizations for transport should not be necessary. Right now, significant time and administrative expense goes into recouping payment for medically necessary transports which have already occurred. This will not increase costs to the state Medicaid program because ultimately these bills are paid by the broker; however, both the provider and broker will be spared the additional burden of the authorization process in these listed instances.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David D. Lowell
President