

Written Testimony - Gregory B. Allard, Vice President
Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers

Public Health

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Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and other distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Greg Allard. I am the Vice President of the Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers. I would like to start my testimony today by thanking you for raising Bill No. 6599 "An Act Concerning Patient Safety" and my testimony today supports this bill.

The title of this bill really says it all. The intent of this bill is truly focused on the safety of the patient being transported on a stretcher. The companies that make-up our association all got into this line of work for one reason - patient care. One of the first things we learn in our training is safety. Safety for ourselves and our patients.

Currently patients requiring a stretcher are only being transported in ambulances. The Emergency Medical Services system requires our personnel to be certified or licensed. It also requires them to keep up on their skills and knowledge base regularly. The ambulances in which we transport our patients are regulated, inspected, and certified not only by the Department of Public Health but by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The standards to which our vehicles are built are actually Federal standards that Connecticut had the foresight to adopt many years ago. These standards, inspections, and certifications are there for one reason; safety. Again, safety for ourselves and our patients.

This bill is following in the footsteps of a bill that Representative Reynolds proposed last year in relation to wheelchair safety and is now in statute. Not only did our Association testify in favor of this bill we provided some insight that was vital to the language in the bill. Again, safety for ourselves and our patients.

Although this slight language change seems simple it codifies that stretcher-bound patients are safely transported by trained personnel in specialized vehicles. It is in this vane that we urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for your time and attention today.