



TOWN OF GOSHEN

42 NORTH STREET – P. O. BOX 187 – GOSHEN, CT 06756-0187
PHONE 860 491-2308 x 221 FAX 860 491-6028

ROBERT P. VALENTINE, FIRST SELECTMAN
EMAIL 1stselectman@goshenct.gov

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Members of the Public Health Committee;

The ever escalating requirements on our emergency service personnel is having a devastating effect.

I do agree that there must be appropriate standards for emergency services, but they must be rooted in what is reasonably necessary to provide competent care for individuals in need of medical attention. If we continue to increase the number of hours necessary for our volunteers to be certified we will lose those very same volunteers small towns rely on.

The Town of Goshen is blessed with very dedicated men and women who, day or night, respond to calls for help. We need your help today to make certain that the tradition of neighbors helping neighbors does not become a thing of the past.

Many of our volunteers spend numerous hours providing emergency services to our community, attending drills, and going to classes to keep their certification. Every increase in the number of hour to become certified or re-certified puts a strain on those very volunteers. More than I would like to think about are deciding that the time commitment is too much for them to handle, resulting in fewer and fewer personnel to answer emergency calls. As the state tries to create an ideal level of care our volunteer services provide, it's having opposite effect. Fewer and fewer people are willing to commit the time necessary to become EMT's resulting in longer response times and the eventual burnout of those remaining.

Today, you will receive testimony from others, much more knowledgeable than I on this subject. I ask that you hear their concerns and make appropriate changes so that we can continue to enjoy the services of our very dedicated volunteers provide.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Valentine
First Selectman