

February 21, 2009

To the Joint Committee on Appropriations

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

I'm Walter Dadik, President of EMS Region One. More importantly, I've been an active EMT for 27 years – six of them as Operations Chief for a Volunteer EMS Service.

One lesson I've learned is implementation of EMS policies developed at the state level is best done close to the end users by an entity that unifies *many towns* into a *cohesive regional* presence. The regional offices do this very well.

An example is preparing for disasters and mass casualty incidents. Even before 9-11, the Southwest Council developed a uniform EMS Mass Casualty Response plan and got it adopted by CEOs of all fourteen towns in their region.

To support this plan the region::

- o **Conceived and enabled the founding of Southwest C-MED** Emergency Communications Center and supported them as they developed today's radio interoperability among the region's hospitals, first responders and EMS Services.
- o **Developed a Mass Casualty Mutual Aid Agreement** for EMS services in the region plus an organized plan for its implementation..
- o **Served as a bridge between the region's services and Hartford's EMS Office** to standardize Incident Command and triage materials among police, fire and EMS in the region. This included concentrated training of EMS services using the curriculum developed by the central office.

This is one example of the balance between centralized oversight and regional implementation. There are many more and I believe the Regional Council Offices are ideally positioned to do the most efficient and *cost effective* job– and they are proposing changes to make themselves even more cost effective.

I'm asking you to restore sufficient funding for the Regional EMS Council Offices to continue to add value to the state's EMS system. Thank you for listening.

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