

Testimony Before the Public Health Committee

March 12, 2010

Andrew Meiman, PA-C, MPH

**Senate Bill No. 428: An Act Concerning Revisions To The Public Health Related Statutes.**

This testimony is given in support of SB 428.

Senate Bill 428 contains provisions that would revise the recertification process for professional health care providers who want to remain certified as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). The current recertification process requires all EMTs to participate in a 25-hour refresher course, and pass both a written exam and a practical skills exam. Physicians, registered nurses (RNs), physician assistants (PAs) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) are required to follow the same process as non-licensed providers. Licensed health care professionals are trained to a level that exceeds the training provided to EMTs, and they maintain these skills in the course of their patient care activities. Physicians, PAs and APRNs are already required to compile continuing education credits to maintain their state license. The current recertification process is a lengthy and unnecessary burden to prove their ability to provide care at the EMT level.

At a time when volunteer efforts in emergency medical services (EMS) are lagging, revisions to the recertification process recognize the potential contributions of health care professionals who wish to volunteer their time and participate in this valuable activity. The proposed revisions in SB 428 recognize the advanced training, experience and continuing education acquired by licensed health care professionals. The revised recertification process requires that the applicant maintain their state license as a health care provider and satisfactorily demonstrate their practical skills. Revising the process may increase the likelihood that these professionals will retain their certification, remain active in EMS, and may increase the likelihood that others will do so as well.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.