



**CONNECTICUT
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE
ADVISORY BOARD**



My name is Charlee Tufts, and I am Vice Chairman of the CT Emergency Medical Service Advisory Board and Chairman of its Legislative Committee.

I would like to address two issues in SB 428 implementing changes in the Public Health Statutes: change of employment status for the five Regional EMS Coordinators and proposed changes in the membership on the CT EMS Advisory Board.

Sec. 59 (NEW):

Three years ago a plan was presented to the CT. EMS Advisory Board to reorganize the regional council system. Part of that plan was to make the regional coordinators state employees in the Office of Emergency Medical Service. The Board endorsed that action, and reaffirms that endorsement today. We strongly believe the Regional Councils are critical to the state-wide EMS system in providing technical assistance, planning and development of the local EMS services, and providing a voice for the local municipalities and EMS services. Concern has been raised regarding the “durational” employment status and therefore the future stability of the state-wide EMS structure. We strongly endorse that the coordinators status will become permanent employment to support the regional councils.

Sec 56. subsection (b) of section 19a-178a:

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The Advisory Board, however, is very concerned that SB ~~484~~ proposes change to our membership and structure without our input. The 41 person membership number has been deleted, and the five regional coordinators have been added as voting members.

The CT EMS Advisory Board was created in statute by the legislature in 1998 by public act 98-195 to advise the governor, the general assembly and the Commissioner of Health on all matters concerning emergency medical service in the state of CT. The 41 members of the board includes five positions representing the regional councils. We welcome the presence and input from the regional coordinators, but feel it is a conflict of interest for a state employee to have a vote on this board. We request you restore the wording of the original statute.

Additionally, the statute creating the CT EMS Advisory Board requires the Department of Health to provide staff to the advisory board. We request administrative staffing the advisory board become part of the regional coordinators job description as state employees, and that the Director of OEMS confer with the Chairman of the Advisory Board as to the selection of the employee to provide staff for the EMS Advisory Board.