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CAMPION Ambulance Service, Inc.

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Testimony of William Campion Jr.

Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut Legislature

March 4, 2011.

Good evening senators and representatives my name is William Campion, President and CEO of Campion Ambulance Service, located in Waterbury, Torrington and Cheshire. I am also a member of the Association of Connecticut Providers.

I am here today to request you to oppose section(s) 10,11,and 12 in the governors Bill No, 1013 an Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for Health and Human Services.

These sections are specific to recommendations to modify and alter current statute for the purpose of introducing a new "stretcher van" level of transportation as an acceptable means of transport for patients confined to a stretcher or " who must be transported in a prone position."

This method of transportation is highly unsafe for the following reasons:

Currently a growing population of patients being safely transported nonemergently by ambulance are those characterized as bariatric or morbidly obese. These patients have no emergent medical conditions and in fact can be highly stable during transport. They do however require highly specialized equipment and additionally trained personnel to ensure safe transport. The changes as presented do not ensure that adequate safeguards will be in place or available to serve this specialized population.

In addition an unintended consequence of these proposed changes is the resulting contraction of resources available to provide additional emergency service or surge capacity in the event of any unforeseen event. Ambulances are routinely redirected from nonemergency transports to respond to emergency events on a weekly if not daily basis throughout our state.

In conclusion I would propose strongly that any person with a condition that prevents the safe and efficient transport by wheelchair is either a person with medical or other specialized needs that could NOT be safely transported in a Taxi=van type vehicle with one (1) nontrained individual.

Thank you for time this evening.

Waterbury

Torrington

Cheshire