



# Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers

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Actna Ambulance :- Ambulance Service of Manchester :- American Ambulance Service  
Campion Ambulance Service :- Hunter's Ambulance Service

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Testimony of  
David D. Lowell, President  
Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers

## **IN SUPPORT OF**

### **RB 1007- AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE PAID SICK LEAVE STATUTES.**

Thursday, March 07, 2013

Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone and distinguished members of  
the Commerce Committee.

My name is David Lowell. I am President of the Association of Connecticut  
Ambulance Providers. Our association members provide ambulance medical  
transports for approximately 200,000 patients on an annual basis and serve 45  
towns in Connecticut. This is done with a network of 128 ambulances and  
dedicated staff of over 900 including highly trained first responders. Our members also  
provide other non-emergency medical transportation and one of our members provides  
special education school bus transportation.

I am here today to speak in support Raised Bill No. 1007, An Act Concerning Revisions  
to the Paid Sick Leave Statutes.

There are two fundamental changes in this statute that we believe require clarity based  
on practical application within our service industry.

First, is the annual accrual of the benefit. The language as originally crafted called for  
both an anniversary cycle and a calendar year cycle for the twelve month annual accrual  
of paid sick leave. We believe this was an unintended consequence and would  
respectfully request that this legislature provide corrective language that allows the  
employer to determine the twelve month structure based on the structure of their fiscal  
year and existing benefit cycles. This in no way alters the amount of benefit prescribed in  
the statute, it simply allows the employer the practical discretion to apply it.

Second, is the 1-hour increment of use. While this may be practical in some office or  
food service settings, it is categorically impractical in the Ambulance, Medical Transport  
and School Bus Industries. It is impossible for members of our association to operate  
within the framework of the law in this regard. Ambulances are staffed with skilled

personnel and respond to emergency calls on a demand basis. It is impossible to guarantee or allow an emergency service worker to leave mid shift for a scheduled appointment as they may be in the middle of responding to, treating, or transporting a patient.

Similarly, School bus drivers are engaged in very specific and time dependent runs and it is impractical that they can depart their run in the middle of the run for an appointment.

We are not proposing that these employees are not entitled to time off, but it has to be taken in greater blocks of time that don't put the employer at risk for not providing a required service.

We have discussed these issues with an attorney at the state department of labor who is very understanding and supportive and has encouraged these changes be made to make the law practical to implement and enforce.

We urge you to support these very practical changes to the statute and thank you for your time today.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David D. Lowell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.

David D. Lowell  
President