

**Testimony – SB 594**  
**Jan Carbonneau- New Britain EMS**

**Public Hearing – Human Services Committee – February 18, 2013**

**Re: SB 594; LCO No. 2502 – An Act Concerning Restoring Medicaid Reimbursement Levels for Emergency Ambulance Transportation.**

**Submitted by:** Jan Carbonneau, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, New Britain EMS, Inc., 225 Arch Street, New Britain, CT 06050-2018; (860) 225-8787, Ext. 12. Cell: 860-770-3179.

**Purpose:** To restore the 10% reduction in Medicaid payments for 911 Emergency Ambulance Transportation. This reduction was the result of balancing the State budget in the fall of 2011. This reduction affected both Certified and Licensed Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Providers, who are the public safety net in providing emergency transportation to the sick and injured.

**Facts:**

- **In the fall of 2011, a 10% reduction was taken off the emergency rates, which resulted in 911 emergency rates decreasing from \$218.82 to \$196.94.**
- **This current Medicaid rate only accounts for 46% of the true median costs, as illustrated in the recent United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report (October 2012) to Congressional Committees. This report reflects 2010 data. They reported the cost to range from \$405.00 to \$475.00; with the median cost being \$429.00. The cost increased for services that had a higher percentage of Emergency and Advanced Life Support (ALS) calls.**
- **Unlike doctors, the ambulance industry has to provide treatment and transport regardless of payment. They cannot refuse patients.**
- **Due to the lack of access to care, the industry has become the default Primary Care Provider (PCP).**
- **Unlike hospitals, the ambulance industry does not have a free care/bad debt pool.**

**Problem:**

- **It is impossible to provide these life-saving services without adequate payment.**
- **Some Communities have a disproportionate share of Medicaid Patients. New Britain EMS provides emergency care and transport to over 43 % of Patients with Medicaid coverage. The national average is 13%.**

**Solution:**

- **Restore the 10% reduction in Medicaid reimbursement for 911 Emergency Ambulance Transportation. The erosion of this reimbursement has put a significant strain on the fiscal stability of ambulance providers, who provide a vital service of saving lives.**