

Testimony of Alfred F. Della Valle  
Before the Human Services Committee of the General Assembly  
In favor of S.B. 594  
Restoration Medicaid Reimbursement Levels for Emergency Ambulance Transportation

Good morning, my name is Alfred Della Valle. I am Vice President of American Medical Response of Connecticut and reside at 43 Oakwood Drive, North Haven, Connecticut. I have been employed by AMR and its predecessor company, New Haven Ambulance Service since 1976. I would like to thank the Human Services Committee for the opportunity to submit this testimony today in order to voice my support to restoring the ten (10)% cut in the Medicaid Ambulance Emergency rate.

As everyone knows, the levels of clinical sophistication, as well as emergency readiness requires the highest levels of training, technologies, and resources to ensure emergency responses are provided to all patients throughout the state in the most effective and efficient manner.

Technology and equipment whether carried in the field by care givers, or fixed in a communications center in the way of computer aided dispatch systems, or affixed in the vehicle in the way of GPS locating systems or electronic patient care reporting systems, requires adequate funding to ensure the costs of these services and technologies are met and maintained. Medicaid rates for the provisions of Ambulance services continue to be paid below the cost of providing services. These additional cuts in reimbursement, will only continue to challenge providers in their quest to provide optimal emergency services and transportation.

As costs continue to rise, for all ambulance providers whether private, municipal, volunteer or hospital based, reimbursement levels are trending in a downward spiral. The state of Connecticut should ensure that restoring the 10% cut in the Medicaid Emergency Ambulance Reimbursement rate is of the highest priority in ensuring patient care needs are met.

