



Written Testimony:

HB No. 6518 AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Submitted by:

Jeffrey J. Hogan, Town Council Chairman  
Kathleen A. Eagen, Town Manager  
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We would like to thank the entire Public Health Sub-Committee for this opportunity to offer written testimony on HB No. 6518.

The Town of Farmington is in full support of HB No. 6518. This Bill begins to make some significant improvements to Emergency Medical Services in Connecticut by, among other things, allowing municipalities the authority to select an ambulance service to hold the Primary Area Assignment (PSA) within their communities.

The premise of this proposed legislation is that a municipality should be able to evaluate the need for ambulance transport within its community and periodically make changes that may improve the level of service or be more economical.

Presently, when a Primary Service Area Responder (PSA) for Ambulance Transport (R2) is assigned by the Department of Public Health, the assignment is without end, unless the company that owns it wishes to surrender the PSA, or the Department of Public Health determines that it is in the best interest of patient care to withdraw and reassign the PSA to another provider.

This proposal would provide a mechanism for a municipality, beyond just when patient care is in jeopardy, to make changes to the way ambulance service is delivered within its community, including going out to bid for a new provider or providing this service through the municipality.

This is a simple matter of Home Rule. Ambulance Transport is a function of Public Health. Decisions regarding this should be made and regularly evaluated at the municipal level and not granted by the State for life.

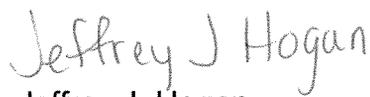


Municipalities routinely go out to bid for proposals to determine the best way to provide a variety of services as a matter of best practices. Ambulance Transport Service should be no exception.

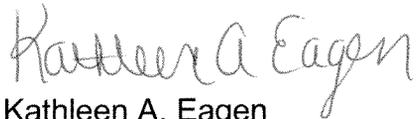
Enacting HB 6518 will ensure that the citizens of Connecticut are afforded an effective and efficient emergency medical services system with the right to change it if they are not satisfied.

We implore the members of the Public Health Sub-Committee to support HB No. 6518.

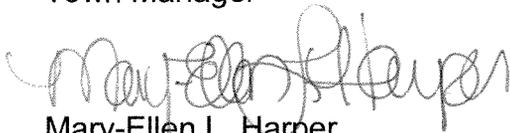
Sincerely,

 (JE)

Jeffrey J. Hogan  
Chairman, Town Council



Kathleen A. Eagen  
Town Manager



Mary-Ellen L. Harper  
Director of Fire & Rescue Services

 (MJA)

Paul J. Melanson  
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