

OFFICE OF THE
TOWN MANAGER

March 15, 2013

Written Testimony:

HB No. 6518 AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES

Submitted by:

Ronald F. Van Winkle

Town Manager

Town of West Hartford

50 South Main Street

West Hartford, Connecticut 06017

While I am unable to attend the hearing, I appreciate the opportunity to be able to submit this written testimony. You are considering Raised Bill No. 6518, An Act Concerning Emergency Medical Services. The Town of West Hartford supports the provisions of this bill and in particular Section 4b that permits a municipality to select a qualified ambulance service for its community.

Under present law the municipality is assigned a single provider through the assignment of the Primary Service Area (PSA) by the Department of Health. The PSA is assigned to a single company in perpetuity. Should the Municipality want to provide this primary ambulance service to its citizens through a municipal service, Public Safety model, we are not permitted. Should the Municipality choose to select an alternate service provider, we are not permitted, short of the Commissioner of Health revoking the company's certification for poor performance. This is purely a public safety service to our residents like our Fire Department or Police Department.

A more flexible system would allow the Municipality to develop a service that works best for them. Having an outside monopolistic company choose the service they will provide is not in the best interest of the citizens. A competitive system would allow the municipality to get the best service tailored to its particular needs.



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