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March 15, 2013

Testimony to the Public Health Committee
House Bill 6518: An Act Concerning Emergency Medical Services

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Mike Demicco, Representative of the 21st district, Farmington and Unionville.

I am submitting testimony regarding HB 6518 (specifically lines 318-337) which references primary service areas for ambulances. This section of the bill would allow a municipality to evaluate the need for ambulance transport within its community and to periodically make changes that may improve the level of service or may be more economical.

Currently, the procedure is as follows: a Primary Service Area Responder (PSA) for Ambulance Transport within a municipality is assigned by the Department of Public Health, which can only be changed if the company decides to surrender the PSA, or if the Department of Public Health determines it is in the best interest of patient care to reassign the PSA to another provider.

The proposed bill would give municipalities the discretion of going out to bid for a new ambulance service provider, or to provide this service themselves.

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.

I urge your support for HB 6518.

Thank you.