

**TESTIMONY OF DAVID JOHN, M.D., FACEP  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH  
MARCH 15, 2013**

**IN SUPPORT OF HB 6393,  
“AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARD OF  
CARE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE PROVIDERS.”**

Good afternoon Representative Johnson, Senator Gerratana, and Committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony in support of HB 6393, An Act Concerning the Professional Standards of Care for Emergency Medical Care Providers.

My name is David John, M.D. and I have been an Emergency Physician for over 20 years. I have watched the specialty evolve and training and continuing education improve. I have spent much of my career working in Quality and Patient Safety. The care that the public receives 24 hours a day is constantly improving.

No one is ever turned away. Our doors are always open. We handle anything that comes to us from a baby that didn't make it to Labor and Delivery to to the elderly patient that stopped breathing. EMS plowed in and got a man having a heart attack on the middle of the blizzard last month. We stabilized him and got a snowplow escort to get him to a Cardiac Center.

When we identify and stabilize someone that needs emergency surgery, any delay can result in harm or death. Most Emergency Departments across the country are experiencing a shortage of specialty care. The reasons for this are myriad, but the bottom line is that our patients and your constituents and families suffer from lack of timely access to specialty care.

We as Emergency Physicians want to take care of everyone that comes to us. EMTALA mandates that we recognize an unstable medical condition. We treat, stabile, and sometimes refer on to specialists. If they are not there, patients die.