



Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers

Aetna Ambulance :- Ambulance Service of Manchester :- American Ambulance Service
Campion Ambulance Service :- Hunter's Ambulance Service

Testimony of David D. Lowell, President, supporting

H.B. No. 5447 (RAISED), AN ACT CONCERNING RATES OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMERGENCY AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION FEES PAID BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

Human Services Committee, Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie and Distinguished Members of the Committee.

My name is David Lowell. I am President of the Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers and Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Hunter's Ambulance Service.

On behalf of our membership, I would like to offer testimony in support of Raised Bill No. 5447, An Act Concerning Rates of Reimbursement for Emergency Ambulance Transportation Fees Paid by the Department of Social Services. Our members provide emergency ambulance service for 36 cities and towns in Connecticut and mutual aid services for another 50 towns.

Thank you for raising this bill. This bill serves an essential function of *restoration* of the emergency ambulance rate to the rate that existed prior to July, 2011. I emphasize restoration and propose that based upon analysis of data, we believe this restoration to be *within available appropriations*. Ambulance services are highly regulated through the department of public health. Medicaid beneficiaries can make up as much as of 30+% of emergency transports in communities.

Rising costs of fuel, insurances, equipment and supplies emphasize the need for restoration. Ambulance Services in each community across the state have the duty to respond to all 911 calls for help without regard to reimbursement. This duty includes factoring in all the costs associated with personnel, vehicles and equipment staffed in a pattern that most efficiently meets the call volume demand. We therefore take on all emergency calls at risk. As much as 35% of all emergency activations do not end in a transport and therefore there is no means of reimbursement. In other words, maintaining a state of readiness for emergency ambulance response is the highest cost of preparedness for all ambulance service providers.

The current reimbursement is just 50% of the average cost to provide the service. The restoration we are seeking is important to all ambulance providers and I thank you for raising this bill and urge your support of the restoration of the emergency ambulance rate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

David D. Lowell
President