

Testimony of Gregory B. Allard, Vice President
American Ambulance Service, Inc. &
Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers

Planning and Development

Friday, March 19, 2014

Senator Osten, Representative Rojas and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee.

My name is Greg Allard and I am the Vice President of American Ambulance Service, Inc. located in Norwich, CT and of the Association of CT Ambulance Providers.

The Association of CT Ambulance Providers includes companies that provide emergency medical services to approximately 200,000 patients annually. Our membership provides care in over 35 municipalities and offers mutual aid to an additional 50 municipalities. These urban and suburban municipalities include areas such as East Hartford, Hartford, Manchester, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Middletown, Meriden, Waterbury and Torrington. The estimated population served is over 800,000. Our mobile integrated healthcare team has a network of 136 ambulances and includes approximately 1600 professionals that we employ. In addition to the patient care we provide we are all very active in our communities.

My testimony today is related to ***Raised Bill No. 5580, An Act Concerning the Pesticide Advisory Council, The Recommendations of the Emergency Medical Services Primary Service Area Task Force and the Elimination of a Municipal Mandate.***

The particular sections of this bill that I would like to discuss are Section 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. I encourage this committee to support Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7. This is very much in line with Raised Bill No. 5540 that was recently heard in the Public Health Committee. These sections provide clarity and set standards that are objective and measurable.

There was a lot of time and effort put into the Task Force Report. For clarification purposes Section 4-7 references Task Force Recommendations 1-4 and Section 8 references the Task Force Report Recommendation 5.

In my opinion Section 8 is not necessary. My reason for saying this is simple; if Task Force Report Recommendations 1-4 are implemented there truly is no need for Recommendation 5.

Recommendations 1-4 set the groundwork required to hold the Primary Service Area Responder (PSAR) accountable. The groundwork is agreed upon by the municipality, the PSAR and the Department of Public Health (DPH).

Section 8 or Recommendation 5 is a way for the municipality to avoid doing the required work in Recommendations 1-4 with their PSAR. It is already spelled out in Recommendations 1-4 that if the standards are not being met then the municipality notifies DPH and DPH needs to take action within 15 business days and come to a determination within 90 days.

Some people in support of Recommendation 5 have said that a municipality has control over who provides their Fire service just like they control other services offered in their municipality. I would say that is true but only in the municipalities that have paid professional Fire services. Not every municipality has a paid Fire service. Most of them have Volunteer Fire Departments and most of those departments are incorporated and they conduct their own internal elections without any input from their municipal leaders.

Recommendation 5 is another way for the municipality to take control. This should not be a control issue. EMS is part of the healthcare system and our control and oversight is provided by DPH and it should remain that way. The municipality should have a say in the quality of service they are getting and that can be done; in Recommendations 1-4.

Again, I encourage this committee to support Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7 of this bill. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory B. Allard