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Cheshire Fire Department
Board of Fire Commissioners

March 20, 2014

TO: Senator, Cathy Osten – Chair
Representative, Jason Rojas - Chair
Senator, Steve Cassano – Vice -Chair
Representative Daniel J. Fox – Vice Chair
Representative Mary Fritz
Members of the Planning and Development Committee

I am writing to support HB5580 "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"

HB5580 includes all 5 recommendations of the Emergency Medical Services Primary Services Area Task Force. While all of these recommendations will improve delivery of EMS in Connecticut, it is Recommendation #5, The Alternative Provision of PSA Responsibilities, that would allow municipalities to make a change to their state designated EMS provider in the event that the municipality has a plan to improve Improved patient care, create a more efficient allocation of resources, regionalize, or to align with a new EMS provider better suited to meet the community's current needs.

While the Town of Cheshire has a great relationship with its current EMS provider there are many communities that DO NOT have a great relationship or have lesser quality services being provided. Unfortunately, in the situation where lesser quality services are being provided, a city or town is "stuck" with that provider under the current system. This is only one of many reasons why HB5580 must have and keep all 5 recommendations of the EMS/PSA task force.

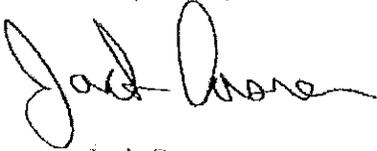
- Recommendation #5 does not offer any guarantees of a change of EMS provider, it simply offers a municipality, which believes that their community can better served by a different EMS provider, the opportunity to have their specific case heard by DPH.
- The current PSA system removes the right of a municipality to consider regional or other cooperative options for the delivery of EMS in their community that can enhance the service in a community or allow for it to be provided more efficiently. Recommendation #5 creates an avenue for municipalities to consider those options.
- There is no notion of competitiveness factored into the market for emergency medical calls. Municipalities may contract with only the provider assigned to them to obtain

better performance or higher level of service. Due to the methods of PSA assignment, this service cannot be bid on the open market.

- PSA Holders are able to surrender a PSA at will if they no longer chose to provide the service. Municipalities are not granted that same right; presently a municipality is not able to have a PSA removed if the municipality no longer wishes to have the service provided by the PSA Holder.
- It should be the role of the municipality to select their provider. It should be the role of DPJH to ensure that Local EMS Plans comply with the law and those EMS providers meets the required criterion. Home rule is a fundamental aspect of the laws and traditions of every New England state.
- Municipalities are acutely aware of their vendors and will do a better job ensuring accountability. Good healthcare policy relies upon competition and local management.
- 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. EMS should be no exception.

My email is jcasner@cheshirect.org or by phone at 203-272-1828.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Casner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jack Casner
Chief of Department
Cheshire Fire/Rescue
Vice President-New England Association of Fire Chiefs