



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Planning and Development Committee Friday, March 21st, 2014 Testimony in Support of,

H.B. 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

Good morning Chairwoman Osten, Chairman Rojas, Vice Chairman Cassano, Vice Chairman Fox, Ranking Member Fasano, Ranking Member Aman, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on behalf of H.B. 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. I offer the following testimony in favor of this proposal.

The Emergency Medical Service Primary Service Area is almost 40 years old. It is time for its outdated practices to be updated to incorporate transparency, home rule, and the best practices possible which are essential elements of effective public policy.

The recommendations suggested by the task force stem from the significant input from all the stake holders. There are five recommendations to come out of this:

1. Changes to the local EMS plan. It should be the responsibility of each municipality to update its own Emergency Medical Services Plan, which is already required by CGS 19a-181b.
2. The DPH shall review local EMS plans every 5 years.
3. The sale or transfer of a PSAR. Any PSAR that sells or transfers all of its assets to another entity or has more than 50% of its ownership interest sold or transferred to another entity shall notify the DPH of such sale or transfer no later than 60 days prior to the sale or transfer.
4. Removal of a PSAR. Terms that enable municipalities to remove a responder because of: a. an emergency or, b. unsatisfactory performance.
5. Alternate provisions of PSA responsibilities. Municipalities shall have the right to submit a local EMS plan for consideration to DPH for the alternate provision of a Primary Service Area Responder's responsibilities.

In the event that the updated local EMS plan demonstrates a municipality is positioned to deliver EMS services or is contracted to have EMS service delivered through a responder other than that which is currently designated by the state, the DPH shall develop a process to ensure that the matter is heard and make a determination regarding the plan.

A municipality may submit a local EMS plan to DPH for the following reasons (among others): 1. Improve patient care, 2. Foster more efficient EMS delivery, 3. Encourage efficient allocation of resources, 4. Offer opportunities to align with a new EMS provider better suited to meet the community's needs, 5. Consider regionalization possibilities, and 6. Evaluate response times.

The Commissioner of Public Health shall conduct a hearing on any plan for the alternative provision of primary service responder responsibilities. If approved, the commissioner shall reassign the PSA in accordance with the local EMS plan.

It should be the role of the municipality to select their provider. It should be the role of DPH to ensure that the local EMS plans comply with the law and that those EMS providers meet the required criteria. Municipalities routinely go out to bid for proposals to determine the best way to provide a variety of services as a matter of best practice. EMS should be no exception.

It is certainly time for us to revisit the current 40 year old system. I want to thank the task force for coming out with clear recommendations and would like to thank the committee for raising the bill which includes all of these recommendations.

Prasad Srinivasan, State Representative, 31st District