



# *Town of Colchester, Connecticut*

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Gregg Schuster, First Selectman

Planning and Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

To the Members of the Planning and Development Committee,

Please accept this written testimony for HB5580.

The provision of ambulance services is obviously a critical part of public safety. The Town of Colchester sees approximately 1300 ambulance calls per year. We are very fortunate that the CHVFD runs two ambulances that effectively responds to these calls. The Colchester-Hayward Volunteer Fire Company is a separate organization from the town which currently holds our PSA and I do not see any reason why Colchester would want to switch PSAs at this time.

That being said, I support all of the Recommendations of the PSA Task Force. The most critical of these recommendations is #5, the Alternative Provision of EMS Service.

The current law prevents municipalities from changing ambulance providers to meet the needs of their community. Essentially, the law grants PSAs a monopoly which is contrary to the interests of the public. A municipality should be able to switch PSAs if a new provider can provide a better level of service and/or a cost savings. As a municipality, we can choose who provides our trash services, snow plowing services, and health services, etc... Municipalities should be able to change PSAs after the appropriate process.

I urge you to support HB5580 because it includes all 5 Recommendations made by the EMS PSA Task Force.

Sincerely,

Gregg Schuster

First Selectman