



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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**Testimony of Representative Mike Demicco**

**House Bill 5580: An Act Concerning the Pesticide Advisory Council, the Recommendations of the Emergency Medical Services Primary Service Area Task Force and the Elimination of Municipal Mandate.**

**Planning and Development**  
**March 21, 2014**

Good morning Representative Rojas, Senator Osten, Representative Fox, Senator Cassano, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee. I am State Representative Mike Demicco (21<sup>st</sup> District—Farmington), and I am joined by Kathleen Eagen, Town Manager of Farmington.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Raised Bill 5580, specifically sections 4 through 8, regarding the recommendations of the Emergency Medical Services Primary Service Area Task Force.

Pursuant to Public Act 13-306, the EMS PSA Task Force was created, charged with reviewing the current process for designating and changing primary service areas, and the process by which municipalities may petition the Department of Public Health for a change or removal of a PSA responder. The Task Force concluded its work last month, and submitted its final report to the legislature's Public Health Committee. The report contained five recommendations regarding EMS plans and PSA responders, but the bill subsequently raised by the Public Health Committee (H.B. 5542) omitted the fifth (and arguably most important) recommendation, having to do with the alternative provision of PSA responsibilities.

In contrast, the bill before you today (Raised Bill 5580) contains all five of the Task Force's recommendations, thus making it a stronger and more efficacious proposal. Recommendation #5 (contained in section 8 of the bill) states that "municipalities shall have the right to submit a Local EMS Plan for consideration to DPH for the alternative provision of primary service area responder responsibilities," outlines a hearing process, and further states that "DPH shall reassign the PSA in accordance with the Local EMS Plan if the hearing results in a favorable review of the alternative provision for the primary service area responsibilities."

As you may know, the current system of PSA assignments is essentially a monopoly, and monopolies generally do not foster good government. Under the current system, municipalities are assigned an EMS provider by the Department of Public Health, and absent extraordinary circumstances, they are obliged to keep that provider indefinitely. Under the current system, municipalities are not allowed to "bid out" their EMS service, and are thus precluded from searching for a better, or more economical, or more efficient provider, one which may better suit the needs of their residents, or one which may result in opportunities for regional efficiencies. Under the current system, there is no notion of market competition, and thus no incentive to improve the quality of service.

In the course of legislative public hearings held in 2013 and 2014, numerous municipal officials expressed the desire to improve the current system of PSA assignments, and the provisions contained in sections 4 through 8 of Raised Bill 5580 will bring about those improvements. I would respectfully ask the Planning and Development Committee to favorably report this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.