

To Whom It May Concern:

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.

The current system hampers the municipalities in their ability to offer the best service to the residents of their community. The current monopolistic system prevents open competition in pricing and service that impedes the town's ability to institute best practices when delivering this service to their residents. Under the current system, the municipality is virtually held captive to the pricing and service level provided by the assigned PSA provider.

As an EMS Captain in the volunteer fire service, we are constantly frustrated by the level of service provided by our current contracted EMS provider. Repeated attempts to improve the level of service have fallen on deaf ears and shows no sign of improvement. Given the fact that the current provider has the exclusive PSA for our town, there is no motivation on their part to offer more than a minimum level of service. Without a change to the current system, a municipality is not able to go out and seek a better service provider (or offer the service themselves) to in-turn provide a better level of service to its residents. Recommendation #5 in HB 5580 represents a chance for municipalities to regain control of an essential service that literally has life and death consequences.

Respectfully submitted,

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