



**Testimony
Kathryn Dube
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Public Health Committee
March 19, 2014**

COST Supports HB-5542 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PRIMARY SERVICE AREA TASK FORCE

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) supports the recommendations provided in the final report of the Emergency Medical Services Primary Area Task Force, however are disappointed to see that recommendation #5 was not included in this bill. This recommendation is key to providing municipalities with the necessary framework in meeting the public health and safety needs of their residents.

Recommendations #1 through 4 of the final report, which received unanimous support by the Task Force, clearly define the best practices required when providing emergency services to local communities. Recommendation #5 would allow municipalities:

- The right to submit a local EMS plan to DPH for an alternate provision of primary service area responder responsibilities
- Modify their EMS delivery model to an alternative provider other than the one as designated by DPH

This recommendation of the final report provides municipalities with the ability to make decisions about the selection of their EMS provider and authorizes a municipality to petition DPH in a situation where the current PSAR fails to deliver services in accordance with the municipality's local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) plan. It is imperative that municipalities have an avenue to voice their concerns and ultimately have a say in who will provide EMS services to their residents. This process will ensure that DPH adequately responds to concerns raised in communities regarding the level of service provided by EMS and creates a regulatory body that will ensure the proper vetting of a given situation. This should be viewed as a priority of the state and is vital to ensuring towns are provided with a service that offers the highest level of care.

COST urges your **support** of recommendations #1 through 5 of the Emergency Medical Services Primary Service Area Task Force final report and asks that you include recommendation #5 in this bill.