



TOWN of TOLLAND/ 21 tolland green, tolland connecticut 06084

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March 19, 2014

Public Health Committee
Room 3000, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Public Hearing for HB5542

Dear Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony regarding the Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Primary Service Area Task Force Final Report. The Town of Tolland, Department of Public Safety would like to endorse implementing recommendations one through five of the Task Forces Final Report.

I have spent twenty-two years serving the residents of the Town of Tolland as an EMT with Tolland Fire Department, Inc. The last twelve years I have served as the Assistant Fire Chief of the fire department which also provides basic life support to the town. Two years ago I was hired as the Town of Tolland Assistant Director of Public Safety.

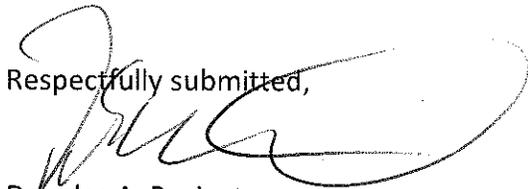
We understand that recommendations one through four have the unanimous support of the entire Task Force. Recommendation five did not win unanimous endorsement by the Task Force. Recommendation five is the Alternative Provision of PSA Responsibilities. This recommendation simply states that municipalities shall have the right to submit a Local EMS Plan for consideration to the Department of Public Health for the alternative provision of primary service area responder responsibilities.

From a municipal perspective, our community has maintained an excellent relationship with our EMS providers. However, in the event that these relationships become adversarial and not represent the best interests of the residents of our community and the people passing through it, our recourse to effect positive change is seemingly impossible.

Recommendation #5 does not offer any guarantees of a change of EMS provider. It simply offers a municipality, which believes that their community can better served by a different EMS provider, the opportunity to have their specific case heard by the Department of Public Health. Providers that continually deliver effective and efficient service with appropriate quality control programs should not fear recommendations one through five, they should embrace them.

We understand that adopting this Final Report in part or in whole will not have the unconditional endorsement of every EMS provider in the State of Connecticut. We believe that any regulatory change should be in the best interest of the end users of the system. While the standards of care shouldn't be disparate from town to town or region to region, the ability and resources that are available to efficiently and reliably deliver that standard of care does vary. Therefore, each municipality should have the ability to openly and competitively evaluate their communities' individual needs. The Town of Tolland would like to thank the Task Force for their time and effort compiling their Final Report.

Respectfully submitted,



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