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Cheshire Fire Department

From the Desk of Jack Casner, Chief of Department

March 18, 2014

TO: Senator, Terry Gerratanna – Co-Chair
Representative, Susan Johnson – Co-Chair
Senator, Gayle Slossberg – Vice -Chair
Representative, Phillip Millier – Vice Chair
Members of the Public Health Committee

I am writing this letter in support of HB 5542 ONLY **if it contains ALL FIVE (5) recommendations submitted by the task force.** If HB5542 does not contain all five recommendations then I am not in favor of this bill's passage.

The task force spent countless hours performing the tasks that they were charged with and their recommendations are reasonable and fair to all parties involved in the PSA process. This will simply modify the current regulations regarding the issuance of PSA's which are not realistic and also not municipality friendly. As you all know, these regulations are limiting and restricting to cities and towns and we are held hostage by these archaic regulations that have been in need of revision for many years.

While I am a Fire Chief that **does not provide EMS** services I am in total agreement that the current PSA/EMS system is dysfunctional and must be addressed, sooner than later.

Currently, the Town of Cheshire has an outstanding relationship with an EMS provider that is second to none. However, if the relationship or the standard of care were to change, it is next to impossible to make a change to another provider or service under the existing regulation. I am more than willing to meet or be contacted to answer any questions that anyone may have.

My email is jcasner@cheshirect.org or by phone at 203-272-1828.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Casner

Chief of Department

Cheshire Fire/Rescue

Vice President-New England Association of Fire Chiefs