

Jeffrey J. Hogan HB 5542

Please be advised that I am sending this correspondence in support of adding recommendation #5 which gives municipalities the right/ability to petition DPH for a change of EMS Provider. In January I finished my term as the Chief Elected Official for the Town of Farmington. Prior to that I served two terms as the Vice-Chairman of the Town Council in Farmington. Prior to that I served as the Assistant Chief of the Farmington Volunteer Fire Department. I have spent 30 years involved in EMS and public safety. I urge you to add recommendation #5 to the committee's review. Connecticut needs EMS reform and this language is critical to that reform. The provision would allow for municipal home rule relative to the purveyance of ambulance services in the municipality.

Towns and cities are charged with providing emergency services to citizens and visitors. Municipalities must finance and provide for these services. Municipalities must have the ability to assess the adequacy and appropriateness of these services. Under current EMS regulations, they are unable to perform that function. Good public policy dictates the adoption of recommendation #5. This language would promote competition, higher quality service and lower cost and would also likely promote regionalized services between and among towns and cities. The language still allows for DPH oversight and approval.

There is overwhelming support from municipalities and labor for the adoption of this provision. I highly encourage you to put recommendation #5 forward.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Hogan

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