Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association

To: **The Members of the Public Health Committee**

Please accept this testimony regarding HB 5545.

The CFCA strongly supports recommendation #5 the Alternative Provision of PSA Responsibilities presented by the task force. Our position recommends that the current PSA regulations be revised to adopt this recommendation to make critical changes allowing municipality and/or state agencies an important role in the evaluation and selection of the EMS service who are caring for and transporting citizens within their own community.

Fire Chiefs, Career and volunteer, are required within their local EMS plans, to deliver critical EMS services to their communities as well as timely and sufficient transport at a level which relates to the needs of their specific community. Currently many cities and towns have no ability to make changes or more importantly review the current PSA holders performance related to their plan. Ongoing evaluations are a critical tool used to measure and identify the most effective way to achieve maximum results. The lack of this process may prevent us the ability to deliver a successful EMS plan in our communities. It is our responsibility to answer to those citizens, not the PSA holders, therefore we must have the ability to make changes at the local level if needed.

Recommendation #5 will provide the opportunity for those tasked, (i.e., Fire Chiefs, local EMS coordinators, etc.) in making these decisions and to fairly evaluate the current PSA holder to develop the right plan for their communities.

We hope that this recommendation is added to HB5542 and our position and that of the Task force is supported.

Thank you ,

Robert Shea

Robert Shea
Chief ,Portland Fire Department
President, Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association