



State of Connecticut

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Testimony by Representative Terrie Wood Before the Public Health Committee Senate Bill 416 March 14, 2014

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, Senator Welch and Representative Srinivasan, I am Terrie Wood, State Representative for the 141st District covering Darien and Norwalk. I am here to testify in opposition to SB 416 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ADVANCED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS in CT.

I represent a district that relies heavily on the skills and training of the Advanced level Emergency Medical Technician. Our EMS service is staffed and run by Darien High School students. The students participate over four years and many continue on as graduate reserves. As sophomores the students take the state certified EMT course, and the requisite state exams when they turn 16. After two more years of service and experience, many of the students go on to take the AEMT course. The A level training is the culmination of four years of training for them.

In addition to the students, there are adult volunteers who staff the ambulances during the day, while the students are in school. These adults are virtually all AEMT's. These AEMT's are able to provide a higher level of support in emergency care, which can make a life saving difference in the care of critically ill patients. One example of this is the ability to start and run an intravenous line. This additional training also provides better care with advanced assessment before the paramedics arrive on scene or before arrival at the emergency department at one of two hospitals. This is training that is vital to our community as high quality and cost effective care. It is also a logical training step between Basic level EMT and the requirements of the full paramedic course.

Advanced-EMT's undergo over 100 hours of additional training to the curriculum required of basic level EMT's. They also must complete 48 hours of continuing medical education every three years to maintain their certification of AEMT. This is a significant contribution to public health and safety.

Thank you for hearing my testimony. I hope that you will give serious consideration to opposing this bill. Please continue to support the training and certification for the A level EMT. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Rep. Terrie Wood