

Skip Kosciusko
SB 416

My name is Skip Kosciusko, and I'm a member of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department. Our department has maintained an advanced life support rating (AEMT) for decades now. We have invested heavily in training new people to this level and we have worked hard to maintain this certification for our existing members. We have invested so heavily in this level of care because we see how much it improves the care we can provide for our patients. We are a remote, mountainous town and our one ambulance covers about 60 square miles. We have prolonged transport times in the best of conditions, and bad weather can make those times even longer. We rely heavily on the ability to start an IV, whether it is for fluid resuscitation or to expedite care by our intercepting paramedic (when they are available). An IV established by Cornwall allowed us to re-establish the blood pressure of a patient who was critically injured at Mohawk Mountain ski area 2 weeks ago, boosting a systolic pressure of 80 up to 112 en route to Sharon hospital.

Another very important factor is the morale of our members that have recently worked so hard to attain this certification and the morale of the members that have worked so hard for decades to maintain this certification. We have put so much effort into this level of care because we have seen first hand how important it is, literally life saving, especially with the location of our town. To simply eliminate this level of care would be a devastating blow to our patients and our squad.

If at all possible, I would like to address the committee during the public hearing. I am strongly urging your support on maintaining this level of care in this state. Cornwall supports the adoption of newer standards, but only when that preserves a pathway for us to maintain our credentials and our level of care in the meantime.

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