



**CITY OF DANBURY**  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
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**DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810**

**GEOFFREY HERALD, CFO**  
FIRE DEPARTMENT

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12 March 2014

Public Health Committee  
Room 3000, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: SB 439

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

I am writing this as Chief of the Danbury Fire Department. I believe this bill is flawed in that the current language of CGS 7-313-e clearly vests the command and control of the emergency scene in the Fire Department. This bill will create a situation where command is not clear and the safety of responders is potentially compromised.

Line 1 states that "No person shall hinder or interfere with a provider..." This indicates that the Incident Commander does not determine scene safety and the medical provider can act independently of command. This contravenes current practice and violates safety principles. Therefore, I cannot support this bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Geoffrey R. Herald  
Fire Chief