

# THE SIMSBURY FIRE DISTRICT

Simsbury, Connecticut

3/18/14

State of Connecticut, Public Health Committee

Email: [phc.testimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:phc.testimony@cga.ct.gov)

**RE: Senate Bill 439: " AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD"**

Dear Public Health Committee Members,

**This letter is written as testimony AGAINST Senate Bill 439 "AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD"**

**As Chief of the Simsbury Fire Department I want to go on record as opposing the language in this bill specifically the language in section one.**

*Section 1. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2014) No person shall hinder or interfere with a provider when acting as part of an emergency medical service organization that is providing emergency medical care, services or transportation, provided the provider is not engaged in an activity that poses an undue risk of harm to himself or herself or to another person. For purposes of this section, "provider" and "emergency medical service organization" shall have the same meanings as in section 19a-175 of the general statutes.*

**As the designated authority by State Legislation to be in control and responsible for the management of the ENTIRE incident, this proposal would serve to undermine that authority, control, and accountability for personnel working at an emergency scene. Without a clear Incident Commander who is able to assess all the risks, is able to work with other emergency service organization to develop strategies and tactics to mitigate the emergency, the emergency scene would become chaotic and result in needless risk, increased injury, and possibly worse.**

**The Fire Service has been recognized by Connecticut Citizens and the State Legislature as being best equipped and trained to handle multiple faceted emergencies. The effectiveness of this authority continues to be proven in today's ever changing world.**

**The number one goal of the Fire Service has never wavered.... TO SAVE LIVES and PROTECT PROPERTY. This drives our every decision and we take into account the lives of ALL the emergency responders who are trying to do the same.**

**Please do not allow this bill to go forward which will destroy the foundation of the emergency management platform which has been proven successful again and again and again.**

Sincerely,

**James A. Baldis  
Chief of Department  
Simsbury Fire District**