

Gregg Schuster
HB 5542
3/19/14 Public Hearing

To the Members of the Public Health Committee,

Please accept this written testimony for HB5542.

The provision of ambulance services is obviously a critical part of public safety. The Town of Colchester sees approximately 1300 ambulance calls per year. We are very fortunate that the CHVFD runs two ambulances that effectively responds to these calls. The Colchester-Hayward Volunteer Fire Company is a separate organization from the town which currently holds our PSA and I do not see any reason why Colchester would want to switch PSAs at this time.

That being said, I do support Recommendation #5 of the EMS PSA Task Force Final Report and strongly advocate that it be added into HB5542.

The current law prevents municipalities from changing ambulance providers to meet the needs of their community. Essentially, the law grants PSAs a monopoly which is contrary to the interests of the public. A municipality should be able to switch PSAs if a new provider can provide a better level of service and/or a cost savings. As a municipality, we can choose who provides our trash services, snow plowing services, and health services, etc... Municipalities should be able to change PSAs after the appropriate process.

Please add the language from EMS PSA Task Force Report Recommendation #5 into HB5542.

Sincerely,

Gregg Schuster