Old Mystic Fire Department

Reliance Fire Company No.1

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March 18, 2014

Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building
300 Capital Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: HB5542

Dear Committee Members,

As a 37-year veteran of the fire service and having served as the Fire Chief for over 20 years, I have major concerns about HB5542 as it is written. I am a strong advocate for providing good patient care. The core mission of today's emergencies service organizations is to work as a team and provide the best possible care we can to the person in need, no matter what. I have been an Emergency Medical Technician for 34 years, responding to emergencies and providing care to people in need (yes, as Chief, I still do hands-on patient care).

I am going on record in opposition to the current HB5542. I am requesting that recommendation 5 be included in HB5542, which would allow a municipality with just cause to petition DPH for an alternate EMS provider. My job is the same as yours - at the end of the day, I must do what is right for the people we have been sworn to serve. This bill is not the right thing to do for better patient care.

Respectfully,

Kenneth W. Richards, Jr.
Fire Chief / Fire Marshal