

Steven Wolf  
SB 416

To The Public Health Committee  
Senator Gerrantana, Co-Chair  
Representative Johnson, Co-Chair

**I am writing in support of Raised Bill No 416.**

**The Advanced EMT (AEMT) level needs to be eliminated from this state's statutes.**

Ironically when the National Transportation Safety Administration first started to revamp the different levels of EMS first responders, the Intermediate level was eliminated. However due to political pressure from some interest groups, that level was reinstated.

I am the former chairman of the CT EMS Medical Advisory Committee (CEMSMAC) which is a legislatively created committee to advise the Commissioner of Public Health on EMS medical matters. During my tenure, the medical directors in this state voted to eliminate the AEMT Intermediate designation due to the fact that most of the Intermediates in this state were not maintaining their skills. These Intermediates were trained to a lower Intermediate level than the AEMTs would be. The higher AEMT level involves far more training and a higher risk of skill erosion than the present Intermediate level. Additionally, there was never any information produced in any presentation or discussion which showed the benefit of the Intermediates.

The state's EMS medical directors felt that to optimize the EMS system in this state, resources should be put into the MRT (first responder), EMT-B and Paramedic level responders and to eliminate the AEMT. In addition, as community paramedicine develops across the country with paramedics checking on patients outside the EMS system, a paramedic level provider is required; an AEMT is not authorized to perform such services anywhere.

This decision to eliminate the AEMT certification was made over several years with a great deal of thought and debate and input. The entire system was considered including costs, resources and the future of healthcare. The medical directors made this decision in conjunction with the state's EMS educators and EMS coordinators and the Department of Health. All these entities are responsible for the functioning of the EMS system in the state.

The effective date of this legislation must be much sooner than January 2017. The Intermediate medics in this state have been well aware of these discussions for many years and are well aware of our decision. A traditional phasing out process is not necessary in this case since the required notice has been out there for about 2 years already. This legislative change is being done for statutory reasons; the medical decision had been made. A delay to 2017 will make an already suboptimal situation worse and serve no purpose.

It is vitally important for the future of EMS in Connecticut that the decisions of those responsible for the system by statute are respected and followed and that politics does not affect the practice of medicine.

Thank you

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