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**TESTIMONY – PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
MARCH 14, 2013**

Good afternoon Senator Gerratana , Representative Johnson and distinguished members of the Public Health committee.

My name is Glenn Terlecki and I am the President of the Connecticut Police and Fire Union. Our Union represents approximately 900 dedicated State employees in firefighting and law enforcement professions. I am here today to speak in opposition of:

**Senate Bill # 416**

**“AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH’S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING  
ADVANCED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS.”**

This legislation removes an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT), also referred to as an Intermediate Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-I) from the public health statutes. There are a number of my members who are proudly trained and certified as AEMT’s.

There are currently four levels of certifications recognized by the Connecticut Office of Emergency Medical Services. The lowest level of certification is the Medical Response Technician (MRT). These individuals are trained in basic first aid, use of oxygen, CPR/AED and child birth. These individuals are typically your basic first responder, such as a police officer.

The next level of certification is Basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-B). These individuals are trained and certified in a wide range of skills well above that of a basic first responder. The certification above EMT-B is the AEMT’s. Individuals certified as AEMT’s can provide all services of EMT-B’s but have a very advanced ability to perform additional functions. These individuals are able to provide fluid replacement (saline and lactated ringers) intravenously (IV), perform advanced airway management and can check glucose levels using a glucometer. The training and ability to properly administer fluid intravenously into a patient vein is probably the most valuable aspect of this certification.

Above the level of an AEMT is a Paramedic (EMT-P). Paramedic’s can perform to the skill level of an EMT-B, plus administer drugs, perform cardiac monitoring, defibrillation, and IV therapy.

Each level of certification has unique attributes that provide valuable medical services to patients. The AEMT certification has been around for decades without any concern to change or remove such

certification. This legislation would completely remove nearly 900 certified AEMT's in Connecticut and limit their level of care down to that of a basic EMT.

The level of care that these trained professionals provides is invaluable and should not be reduced because of this proposed legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

**Glenn Terlecki, President**  
**Connecticut Police and Fire Union**