

Testimony of Gregory B. Allard, Vice President
American Ambulance Service, Inc. &
Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers

Public Health Committee

Friday, March 14, 2014

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee.

My name is Greg Allard and I am the Vice President of American Ambulance Service, Inc. located in Norwich, CT and of the Association of CT Ambulance Providers.

The Association of CT Ambulance Providers includes companies that provide emergency medical services to approximately 200,000 patients annually. Our membership provides care in over 35 municipalities and offers mutual aid to an additional 50 municipalities. These urban and suburban municipalities include areas such as East Hartford, Hartford, Manchester, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Middletown, Meriden, Waterbury and Torrington. The estimated population served is over 800,000. Our mobile integrated healthcare team has a network of 136 ambulances and includes approximately 1600 professionals that we employ. In addition to the patient care we provide we are all very active in our communities.

My testimony today is in favor of ***Raised Bill No. 416, An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians. (AEMTs).***

The Association of CT Ambulance Providers supports the Department of Public Health in their initiative to remove the AEMT level of EMS provider. The removal of this level of provider will have a minimal impact on our Association members. Most of our mobile integrated healthcare team is Basic Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics.

The AEMTs have been operating on a curriculum that was developed in 1985 and has had no advancement since then. In that time, the Basic EMT has evolved and the Department of Public Health has authorized pilot programs to further that evolution.

These AEMTs have the opportunity to continue to provide patient care as a Basic EMT or they could enhance the system by becoming Paramedics. We expect Paramedics to play a much greater role in healthcare in the near future.

We know this decision was not made in haste by the Department of Public Health. We support their decision and ask that you them to by supporting this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory B. Allard