

Hunter's Ambulance Service, Inc.

Executive Offices • 450-478 West Main Street • Meriden, CT 06451 • 203-235-3369 • Fax 203-514-5122

February 26, 2015

Testimony of Donna M. Hunter, President, CEO
Hunter's Ambulance Service, Inc.

HB 6846- AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

Human Services Committee, Thursday, February 26, 2015

Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and Distinguished Members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony. I am President and CEO of Hunter's Ambulance Service. I am proud to say that our company is in its 51st year of providing ambulance and medical transportation in Connecticut.

My testimony is in opposition to Section 17 of HB 6846-AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

Hunter's Ambulance provides emergency ambulance services to Meriden, Middletown, Berlin, Middlefield and Portland, and primary backup for the city of New Britain, and the towns of Wallingford, Cromwell and Durham. We respond to these emergencies regardless of the patient's ability to pay. In addition, we provide non-emergency ambulance transportation to patients throughout the Hartford, New Haven and Middlesex counties.

Hunter's Ambulance along with all other ambulance companies in Connecticut is a regulated by the Department of Public Health. Over the past several years we have experienced reimbursement reductions and are reimbursed significantly below our costs. At a 50% reimbursement rate to cost, Medicaid as it stands today does not cover the ever rising costs of our labor, insurance, vehicles, and medical supplies.

If this reduction were to be implemented, the net effect would be a diminished capacity of resources, extended response times, interrupted levels of services to our elderly, and would undoubtedly compromise the safety net of emergency medical services across our State.

I therefor respectfully request that you not support this proposed cut in Medicaid reimbursement to ambulance providers.

Sincerely,



Donna M. Hunter, President

"Concern For Others"

222 Mill Street
Berlin 828-8909

594 Washington St.
Middletown 346-9627

20 Parkway Place
Meriden 235-4441

47-A North Plains Industrial Rd.
Wallingford 269-6586

595 Bank St.
New London 443-1212