

MARCIA A. LECLERC
MAYOR

TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD
31 School Street – Fire Headquarters

Telephone
(860) 291-7400
FAX (860) 282-9706

FIRE DEPARTMENT
JOHN H. OATES
FIRE CHIEF

East Hartford, Connecticut 06108

March 17, 2015

Honorable Terry B. Gerantana
Honorable Matthew Ritter
Honorable Joseph J. Crisco
Honorable Emmett D. Riley
Connecticut General Assembly Public Health Committee

By way of this memo, please permit me to provide written testimony *against* Raised Bill 999, **AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

As Chief of the East Hartford Fire Department, I am responsible for delivery of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to the residents and visitors of our community. I been certified as an emergency medical service provider for nearly 30 years and have worked as a provider in both rural and suburban environment during that period.

I must preface my comments with acknowledging there are several aspects of this bill that have the potential to improve the EMS delivery system in Connecticut. Regrettably, Section 1 (in total) is not one of those sections.

Section 1 of this bill attempts to ensure the provider on the scene of a medical emergency, that holds the highest level of credential, is responsible for patient care. Despite this laudable goal, the legislation, as worded, is not workable.

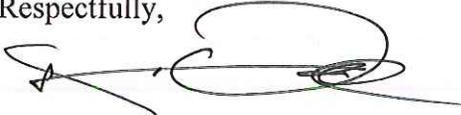
The raised bill fails to contemplate in a workable manner multiple responders, does not adequately define terms and conditions referenced in the bill, and contains conflicting guidance. It also fails to consider the content of the (state mandated) local EMS plan and what occurs if the provider from the community fails to respond. Finally, I would offer that the final sentence, requiring 'all personnel on scene' to ensure orderly transfer occurs, lacks practicality and is not a realistic expectation.

Similar to a previous year's raised bill, this section attempts to legislate relationship management between providers. Given my tenure in Connecticut's emergency services, and my activity in several organizations, I question the need. There is no credible data that supports the need for this change.

For these reasons, I ask that you reject Section 1 of the raised bill. It will not result in any improvement in the Emergency Medical Service delivery system in our state.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John H. Oates', written over a horizontal line.

John H. Oates

Fire Chief, East Hartford CT