



**Kathryn Dube
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the
Public Health Committee
March 11, 2015**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) **supports HB-5907, AN ACT CONCERNING NOTIFICATION TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS REGARDING PATIENTS DIAGNOSED WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

This proposed bill seeks to ensure that emergency medical services personnel are given adequate notification when they may have come in contact with life threatening infectious diseases. Emergency responders are usually the first to arrive on scene when a 911 call is triggered. They arrive ready to provide necessary care to stabilize a patient and transport them to the nearest hospital. Many of these first responders are volunteers who work diligently on behalf of the towns they serve; most often they are residents offering their skills to benefit the community. This bill would offer the protection necessary to emergency responders. During the notification process it is also critical to ensure the patient's privacy. Additional steps should be taken to be sure HIPAA requirements are met while at the same time providing information critical to the safety of those who may have come in contact with a given patient.

Towns rely on first responders to provide emergency care to their residents. This bill offers the protection necessary to ensure the safety of EMS providers and the safety of the community as a whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.