



Town of Farmington Fire Department
1 Monteith Drive Farmington, CT 06032

Phone: (860) 675-2322 Fax: (860) 675-2323
www.Farmington-CT.org

Public Health Committee

Testimony in Support of HB 5911

An Act Restructuring the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board

March 10, 2015

My name is Mary-Ellen Harper. I serve as the Director of Fire and Rescue Services for the Town of Farmington. I manage a fire department that is comprised of 175 volunteer fire fighters and 8 career fire fighters. Last year, we responded to 3,450 calls for service, almost 80% of those calls were for medical emergencies. I also serve as the Chair of the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association Legislative Committee. The Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association represents 463 Fire Chief Officers from across the State of Connecticut.

I am here today to ask for your support of HB 5911, An Act Restructuring the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board (EMSAB). The current EMSAB is comprised of an astounding 41 members. **To put that in perspective, the EMSAB has 5 more members than the entire Connecticut State Senate!**

The unwieldy size of the board has likely hampered the EMSAB's ability to perform efficiently. **The EMSAB has failed, in several areas, to comply with its own statutory mandate.** This includes the requirement to submit annual reports to the Commissioner of Public Health. There is no evidence that the EMSAB has ever clearly articulated a vision for EMS in the State of Connecticut. This includes how it plans to ensure that Connecticut meets the National Scope of Practice. In 2013, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration conducted a review of EMS in Connecticut and provided guidance for the system. If any of the recommendations from that report have been addressed by the EMSAB, it is not apparent to the end users of the system.

Discussions about restructuring the EMSAB have been active for many years. In 2012, HB 5526, An Act Concerning the Membership of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board and an Emergency Services Policy Council was introduced by the Public Health Committee. This bill proposed reducing the size of the EMSAB to 13 members. The Department of Public Health submitted written testimony in support of this bill. I have attached to my testimony the Ad Hoc Committee Report from **EMSAB Chair John Quinlavin in which he stated that this bill "provides a unique opportunity to modify the membership of the Advisory Board, empowering key EMS stakeholders to participate in defining the future of the EMS System in Connecticut."** On March 21, 2012, the EMSAB Chair submitted testimony to the Public Health Committee opposing this same bill.

The Town of Farmington Fire Department is dedicated to providing for the safety and welfare of the community through the preservation of life, property, and the environment, by maintaining a constant state of readiness through fire fighter training and public education.



Town of Farmington Fire Department
1 Monteith Drive Farmington, CT 06032

Phone: (860) 675-2322 Fax: (860) 675-2323
www.Farmington-CT.org

Fast forward 3 years, and we are still discussing the need to “right size” the EMSAB. EMSAB membership attendance at meetings averages 50% of the 41 members. While these meetings are legal because the EMSAB requires only 9 members in attendance for a quorum, this dismal attendance rate is a disservice to Connecticut’s EMS System and those that it serves.

In direct response to proposed Bill HB 5911, the EMSAB has issued its first annual report for period of time encompassing 2013-2014. While the sheer size of the 5-page report is at first impressive, a closer review of the report reveals that **many of the accomplishments listed are more appropriately credited to the employees of the Connecticut Department of Public Health than to the EMSAB.**

Today you will hear from a variety of EMS Chiefs, Police Chiefs and Fire Chiefs asking that you review and restructure the EMS Advisory Board. You will also hear from a number of EMSAB Members asking that you maintain the status quo. **If the users of the EMS system thought the EMSAB was efficient and effective, we wouldn't be calling for change.**

The face of EMS in Connecticut is changing daily. With changes to insurance, healthcare, treatments, and the needs of our patients, we as providers need to be able to respond to a dynamic environment. We need an EMSAB that is positioned to guide the evolution of our EMS System. Right-sizing the EMSAB will breathe new life into Connecticut’s EMS System. **The right-sized EMSAB should be charged with establishing a vision and an associated strategic plan for Connecticut’s EMS System with specific, articulated benchmarks, deliverables, and deadlines.**

I urge you to support HB 5911, An Act Restructuring the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Allen Feltner".

Director of Fire & Rescue Services

The Town of Farmington Fire Department is dedicated to providing for the safety and welfare of the community through the preservation of life, property, and the environment, by maintaining a constant state of readiness through fire fighter training and public education.



Town of Farmington Fire Department
1 Monteith Drive Farmington, CT 06032

Phone: (860) 675-2322 Fax: (860) 675-2323
www.Farmington-CT.org



Connecticut EMS Advisory Board

John Quinlavin, Chairman

Bill 5526SL-LCO#2921
Position Statement

5526SL-LCO#2921 proposes dramatic and unprecedented change to the current composition of the EMS Advisory Board as well as the methodology of appointment. The Ad Hoc committee's charge was to develop a recommended position for the Advisory Board to consider in response to 5526SL-LCO#2921. The Committee's Position is outlined below:

1. 5526SL- LCO # 2921 provides a unique opportunity to modify the membership of the Advisory Board, empowering key EMS stakeholders to participate in defining the future of the EMS System in Connecticut. The majority of Board representatives must be or have had significant "boots on the ground" EMS field experience as evidenced by their education, current license and/or certification in a recognized EMS discipline
2. The proposed Board Composition by the Ad-Hoc Committee is comprised of the 13 key stakeholders inclusive of EMS Physicians, EMS Licensed or certified providers at the executive, educational and grass roots level representing all system components (first response, transport, ALS and BLS); communications, the Council on Regional Councils (CORC), OEMS, and Hospitals.
 - a. 1-Commissioner of Public Health or Designee
 - b. 1-OEMS Medical Director
 - c. 1-CEMSMAC Physician Representative recommended by CEMSMAC
 - d. 1-Hospital Representative recommended by CHA.
 - e. 1-CORC Representative recommended by CORC
 - f. 1- Fire Service Representative – recommended by CFPC who will coordinate the selection process.
 - g. 1- Ambulance Executive Representative representing for profit, not for profit, municipal third service, hospital based EMS services recommended by Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers (ACAP) in collaboration with the Non Profit/Municipal Third Service/ Hospital Based Service Chiefs (inclusive of volunteers).
 - h. 1- Local Health Department Representative recommended by CAHD
 - i. 1 – EMSI Representative recommended by the CSEMSI.
 - j. 1- Law Enforcement Representative recommended by DESPP
 - k. 1 –Communications Representative recommended OSET
 - l. 1-Paramedic – recommended by the Advisory Board Paramedic Sub-Committee
 - m. 1-EMT – recommended by CORC

The Town of Farmington Fire Department is dedicated to providing for the safety and welfare of the community through the preservation of life, property, and the environment, by maintaining a constant state of readiness through fire fighter training and public education.



Town of Farmington Fire Department
1 Monteith Drive Farmington, CT 06032

Phone: (860) 675-2322 Fax: (860) 675-2323
www.Farmington-CT.org

3. The Board members should possess specific EMS credentials to participate on the Board as detailed below:
 - a. CEMSMAC Representative - Residency Trained, Board Certified in Emergency Medicine
 - b. CORC Representative- current EMS certification or licensure.
 - c. Fire Service Representative- must possess current EMS licensure or certification or have documented significant past field experience.
 - d. CAHD – EMS experience as a provider or leader preferred.
 - e. EMSI – current licensure or certification.
 - f. Ambulance Service Executive Chief Officer - current license/certification, field as well as leadership experience and demonstrated broad knowledge of for profit, non profit, municipal third service, hospital based and volunteer services.
 - g. Law Enforcement Representative- from department functioning in a first response role, minimum certification as an Emergency Medical Responder.
 - h. Communications Representative- from organization providing Emergency Medical Dispatch services with minimum certification as an EMD.
 - i. Paramedic – current certification and actively practicing
 - j. EMT—current certification and actively practicing
 - k. Hospital Representative- current or past EMS field and leadership experience preferred.
4. Representatives from each discipline must recognize that their appointment requires them to service the entire spectrum of their discipline. They must have the ability to actively communicate with all facets in the discipline through the use of various sub-committee structures.
5. The Board must develop and adopt responsible term limits that assures continuity in mission and work flow from year to year but allows the group to remain dynamic.

Additionally, the Advisory Board is opposed to the inclusion of Section 3 of this bill.

John Quinlavin, Chairman

The Town of Farmington Fire Department is dedicated to providing for the safety and welfare of the community through the preservation of life, property, and the environment, by maintaining a constant state of readiness through fire fighter training and public education.