



North Central Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.

Written Testimony in non-support of Proposed H.B. 5911

An Act restructuring the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board.

Distinguished members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Raffaella Coler and I am the current President for the North Central Emergency Medical Services Council. I am a Registered Nurse, Paramedic with 35 years of experience. I have been an active participant in the State of Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, (CEMSAB) serving in the role of chair for the Education and Training Committee. I was appointed by the Governor in 2014 as an official member. I would like to submit testimony in non-support of proposed H.B. 5911.

I am in full support that every entity has opportunities for improvement; however those opportunities are best identified by having an inclusive board that solicits, hears and responds to the needs of their constituents.

The CEMSAB has forty one members that have been legislatively appointed to allow input from a variety of stakeholders. It is inclusive of all EMS partners and relies heavily on the expertise of our community partners.

I would like to address some of the gains that have been made over the years:

Developing statewide treatment guidelines (protocols) for paramedic, EMT, and EMR levels of providers with eventual goal of a standard of care throughout New England.

Developed sub-committees to address specific needs identified by EMS providers. Presently there are 15 committees which have been developed in response to identified needs. I will address the Education and Training Committee, as I serve in the role of chair. This committee has a core group of participants representing various educational entities that come together monthly and work on producing unified educational resources. A few of their deliverables include educational programs for: Continuous Positive Airway Pressure, Spinal Motion Restriction, Narcan Administration and Twelve Lead ECG Acquisition. This work is on-going and represents many uncompensated man hours.

**Testimony in non-support of
Proposed H.B. 5911
Page 2**

There are further accomplishments that been well articulated in the 2013-2014 Annual Report which I would urge you to read.

It is said that, " it takes a village to raise a child." EMS as you know is still very early in its development. Limiting the input of field experts and not being inclusive would further limit its development.

The CEMSAB (established pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 19a-178a) is charged to *"assist in coordinating the efforts of all persons and agencies in the state concerned with the emergency medical service system, and shall render advice on the development of the emergency medical service system where needed"*. It is my belief that this charge has been carried out and is being met. I would urge you to not to support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.