

5911

March 10, 2015

Connecticut General Assembly
210 Capital Ave
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear members of the Connecticut General Assembly:

I am writing this letter in support of HB 5911, An Act Restructuring the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board.

I have been involved in several aspects of Emergency Medical Services for the past 26 years. During that time I have worked in multiple regions throughout state and operated under several medical directors. I am currently the Chief of Operations for the Windsor Volunteer Ambulance and a Firefighter/Paramedic for the town of Wallingford. I support this proposed restructure for the following reasons:

Each region has similar protocols, yet every one of them has its own particular procedures. This creates multiple sets of protocols in a very small state and leads to confusion among providers. Over the past 25 years there has been no significant progress to unify the statewide EMS system and create one universal set of protocols.

Furthermore, the current EMSAB has recommended expensive changes to the scope of practice within the EMS system after budgets have been approved and/or already spent. I represent a 503C non-profit organization. We, like the municipal entities, follow a tight budget. When items that the current EMSAB have proposed are implemented after a budget process has been implemented it becomes problematic, especially for smaller agencies such as mine. For this reason the current board appears to be disconnected from the fiscal processes of the outside world.

The EMSAB is comprised 41 members. Generally less than 50% of the members attend most meetings which in turn leads to very little progress being accomplished. Reducing the number of members will simplify the process and remove a layer government that is unnecessary and counterproductive.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Dievert Jr., EMT-P, EMS-I
Chief of Operations
Windsor Volunteer Ambulance