

H.B. 5911

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM M. SCHIETINGER

BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

MARCH 11, 2015

Good Afternoon. My name is William M. Schietinger I reside at 5 Foxwood Road, Trumbull, Ct.

I am the General Manager of American Medical Response Inc. ('AMR') Fairfield County Division and also hold the position of voting member of the Connecticut EMS Advisory Board in the capacity as the President of the Southwest Regional EMS Council as appointed by Governor Dannel Malloy. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 5911.

I am compelled to testify today in opposition to the above mentioned legislation and to support the Advisory Board's structure in its current state. The EMS Advisory Board assists in coordinating the efforts of all persons and agencies in the state concerned with the EMS system, while rendering advice in the development of guidelines and regulations where needed. The advisory board continues to offer such recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly through the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health in an effort to improve the delivery of emergency medical services. The Advisory Board currently consists of 41 members which is representative of the many stakeholders in the EMS system, including but not limited to Ambulance providers, Hospital, Fire, Police, Nursing, and other Volunteer representatives.

For example the Advisory Board has played key roles in:

- Created Statewide guidelines for EMT and EMR administration of Narcan
- Created Statewide guidelines in the development and administration of 12 lead EKG by EMT's.(critical to patient care in areas that Paramedics are not available)
- Created Statewide guidelines for spinal/motion restriction to reduce the harmful side effects of spine board usage
- The Advisory Board has played a key role with OEMS in reviewing and revising the EMS minimum equipment lists for all levels of EMS providers.

The above areas of concern and interaction are a small example of the coordinated efforts of many healthcare stakeholders in our state represented on the Board to ensure the advancement in the delivery of healthcare.

I therefore feel that the Advisory Board, taking into consideration the work that is accomplished through its committees and subcommittees should be maintained in its current structure to ensure the dialogue and partnership with OEMS remains strong, while advancing the EMS system in Connecticut.