State of Connecticut
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONN. 06106

Testimony

In support of H.B. 6658

An Act Concerning the Administration of Naloxone, Nitroglycerin, and Epinephrine by Emergency Medical Technicians.
Public Health Committee
March 11, 2015

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Senator Markley, Representative Srinivasan and members of the Public Safety Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 6658, An Act Concerning the Administration of Naloxone, Nitroglycerin, and Epinephrine by Emergency Medical Technicians.

Approving this bill is crucial for Emergency Medical Technicians to properly address certain emergency situations. Naloxone is used to counter the effects of opioids, which, according to the March 4, 2014 article in the Washington Post, caused approximately 24,492 overdose deaths a year in the United States. Law enforcement officers started to carry naloxone last year in Connecticut and it has already saved many lives.

Nitroglycerine is used in ambulances to widen blood vessels, which allows blood to flow more easily and reduces chest pain in cardiac emergencies like heart attacks. Epinephrine is used when an individual has an anaphylaxis emergency, which results in their airway closing up and a sharp decrease in blood pressure. According to the Journal of the American Family Physician, approximately 1,500 individuals die every year in the United States because of an anaphylaxis reaction.

If Emergency Medical Technicians are allowed to carry and administer these life-saving medications countless lives can be saved. Not allowing them to carry these medications would be unfortunate because typically they are the first to respond to emergency situations and are likely better qualified than a law enforcement official.

We are available for any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Rosa C. Rebimbas
State Representative, 70th District

David Labriola
State Representative, 131st District