



# MYSTIC FIRE DEPARTMENT

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March 17, 2015

Connecticut State Senate

Committee on Public Health

Dear Senator Gerratana and Public Health Committee Members,

I would like to note to the Public Health Committee my departments opposing to Raised Bill No. 999, specifically Section 1.

The safety of any emergency scene is paramount for not only those affected as victims or patients as well as the emergency responders. The Incident Commander is the one person responsible for the safety of all concerned and involved.

There can be only one Incident Commander per emergency. It is my opinion that no Incident Commander is going to interfere with those charged with patient care at the scene of an emergency. There admittedly may be occasions when immediate aid must be delayed for brief time periods where there are conditions that are immediately dangerous to life and health that may be involved. Anyone with an amount of time in emergency response has faced that situation. An example may be that a motor vehicle needs to be stabilized from movement before any emergency responders can enter the vehicle to provide assistance. Another example may be that downed power lines may need to be secured and/or removed in a similar situation. The emergency responders may be unable to enter a hazardous material incident scene until the hazard is mitigated or proper protective gear is donned. The examples can go forth from here but the fact remains that one and only one person, the Incident Commander, is responsible for the overall safety of all persons involved and his or her role cannot be diminished or restricted. I personally find it very hard to believe that any Incident Command personnel have or will ever withhold patient care by the most qualified medically trained personnel at any time during an emergency unless **ONLY** when a responder would be in life threatening danger.

The legislature has had Connecticut General Statute 7-313e in place for decades to ensure that only one person has charge of any emergency scene. Please do not diminish the authority of that individual by enacting Section 1 of this proposed legislation

Thank You and Sincerely

Frank C. Hilbert

Chief, Mystic Fire Department