



# Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers

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Aetna Ambulance - Ambulance Service of Manchester – American Ambulance Service  
Campion Ambulance Service – Hunter's Ambulance Service

February 25, 2016

## Testimony of the Association of CT Ambulance Providers In Opposition to

### **SB 134- AN ACT CONCERNING SEVERE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENT AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE.**

**Labor Committee Hearing, February 25, 2016**

Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor Committee: The Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony on **SB 134 – An Act Concerning Severe Mental and Emotional Impairment and Workers' Compensation Coverage**. As currently drafted, we have significant concerns about the impact it would have on the ambulance industry.

Emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, paramedics and ambulance drivers by virtue of their education, training and duty to act are routinely called upon to respond to, assess, treat, transport or make presumptions of death of victims in the immediate aftermath of violent acts.

Our industry provides specific programs and oversight for such instances, employees are trained early on that they can expect to encounter the aftermath of violent acts when performing ambulance duties, they are advised that professional assistance is available to them upon request twenty four hours a day, ambulance companies have on staff and on duty professional supervisory staff who can immediately assist and direct the most appropriate care which includes: CISD – Critical Incident Stress Debriefing, EAP – Employee Assistance Program available through our Occupational Health Provider, Short Term Disability Insurance application, constant updates and annual training sessions to remind employees what is available.

The Connecticut ambulance industry has been dealing with mental and emotional aspects of our work place and has been successful in providing the very best assistance available when these situations arise. We request that language be added that exempts emergency medical technicians, paramedics and ambulance drivers who respond within the course of their duties to the aftermath of such acts.

Ambulance providers pay some of the highest workers' compensation rates due to the nature of the employment. This bill would cause an increasing hardship on all ambulance providers at a time when Medicaid and Medicare rates have been cut.

We are committed to work with the committee and can offer language that makes the appropriate distinction as referenced above.

Thank you,

John A. Zarrella

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