

Testimony of Gregory B. Allard

Chairman, Connecticut EMS Advisory Board

in support of

SB 123, An Act Concerning The Sale Or Delivery Of Body Armor To Firefighters And Emergency Medical Service Providers

Public Safety and Security Committee, Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Good Day Senator Larson, Representative Dargan and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, my name is Gregory Allard and I am chairman of the Connecticut EMS Advisory Board and Vice President of American Ambulance Service in Norwich. My testimony today is in favor of:

Raised Bill No. 123, An Act Concerning The Sale Or Delivery Of Body Armor To Firefighters And Emergency Medical Service Providers.

The interest here is obviously the safety of the individuals working and volunteering in these roles that are so important to all of our communities. And with all of the situations first responders find themselves in today, safety is of the utmost importance.

Today Emergency Medical Service Providers and Firefighters can walk into a brick and mortar store and purchase Body Armor. The Fire Department or Ambulance Service they are part of can have a salesman come in so they can purchase Body Armor.

The request here in Bill No. 123 is to include Connecticut Firefighters and Emergency Medical Service Providers in the exception list of Section 53-341b. This exception would allow these dedicated people to purchase Body Armor online. This process would provide them more choices, make it more convenient, and, in some cases, more cost effective.

The language as written does require some correcting though. A "firefighter" is defined in Chapter 104, Municipal Police and Fire Protection - Section 7-323(j) and not Section 7-232(j). That definition includes both paid and volunteer firefighters so I don't believe there is need to separate them here.

I urge the committee to pass this important legislation with the changes I have outlined. Please keep in mind the safety of the men and women working and volunteering in your community. Please vote in favor of Raised Bill No. 123.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory B. Allard
Chairman, Connecticut EMS Advisory Board