WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF Proposed House Bill No. 5755
An Act Concerning Municipalities’ Local Emergency Medical Services Plans

Senators Gerratana, Somers, Kennedy, Logan, Representatives Steinberg, Luxemberg, Srinivasan, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, my name is William Schietinger. I am writing to you today as the President of the Southwest Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Council and Co-Chair of the Connecticut EMS Advisory Board, and I am writing in support of Proposed House Bill No. 5755, An Act Concerning Municipalities’ Local Emergency Medical Services Plans.

I have over 30 years of experience in the Emergency Medical Services industry in Connecticut and have been directly involved in writing Local Emergency Medical Services Plans. This Proposed Bill will help to clarify the minimum number of service providers required to carry an opioid antagonist (such as Naloxone Hydrochloride) pursuant to a municipality’s local emergency medical services plan.

This Proposed Bill will amend current legislation, specifically subsection (e) of section 17a-714a. The current legislation specifies that “the emergency responder” is equipped with an opioid antagonist and has received training, approved by the Commissioner of Public Health, in the administration of opioid antagonists. The amendment would change “the emergency responder” to “at least one emergency services provider, as defined in section 19a-179-1 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies.”

Presently, there is confusion amongst EMS services and Municipalities when completing or updating their local emergency medical services plans on whether all emergency responders are required to be equipped with Naloxone or if only one of the emergency responder agencies are to be equipped with it. This Proposed legislation would help clarify this requirement in ensuring at a minimum, at least one of the responding agencies are properly equipped.

This clarification will help ensure that the Connecticut EMS System continues to strive towards reducing the per capita cost of health care, one aspect of the Institute of Healthcare Improvement’s Triple Aim, the other two being improving the patient experience of care and improving the health of populations.

I encourage the Public Health Committee to approve Proposed House Bill No. 5575. Local Emergency Medical Services Plans are important to ensure that all Municipalities are prepared to provide high quality emergency medical care to their residents and visitors. Helping to clarify the requirements will assist in this planning process while also reducing cost.

I may be reached at bill1m@hotmail.com or by phone at (203) 650-3432 to answer any questions or provide further information.

Respectfully submitted,

William Schietinger
President
Southwest EMS Council
100 Mona Terrace
Fairfield, CT 06825