

February 11, 2019

Chairman Leone, Chairman Lemar, Vice Chair Bergstein, Vice Chair Simms, Ranking Member Martin and Ranking Member Devlin and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee

I am writing in opposition of **S.B. No. 66 An Act Concerning the Nonemergency transportation of elderly persons with disabilities confined to a stretcher**. To allow temporary or permanent livery permit holders to use stretcher vans to transport elderly persons and persons with disabilities who must be transported on a stretcher.

My name is Michael Loiz, I currently serve as the Director of EMS & 911 for Stratford EMS. SEMS is a Paramedic Level, EMS made up of 120 Emergency Medical Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics.

We respond to over 7100 calls for service each year, almost all of which are medical in nature. I have worked as a Paramedic for over twenty four (24) years and am actively working in the Connecticut EMS system for over twenty eight (28) years. I maintain specialty credentials in both EMS and Public Safety Telecommunications and I own and operate a public safety consulting firm with national experience. I have worked in both public and private EMS.

I want to be clear that the passing or failing of this bill will have no direct financial impact on the EMS agency for which I am responsible. I am apposing the bill because in all of my experience, I cannot find one instance that leads me to believe that this kind of transportation would be safe or in the best interest for those that the bill seeks to serve.

There are plenty of examples from all over the country that make it clear that patients are being placed at risk every day as a result of being transported in vehicles that are not staffed or equipped to meet their medical needs.

States such as Alabama, Michigan and Ohio have banned the use of stretcher vans outright, due to patient handling and monitoring issues. Other states which allow this form of transportation (CA, IL), do so only under very strict regulation by state health agencies.

As a patient advocate, I cannot in good conscience, support a bill that would place members of the community I serve and those of surrounding communities, in a position to jeopardize their health and wellbeing.

I strongly urge you not to support this bill.

Respectfully,



Michael A. Loiz
Director of EMS

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