



Date: September 21, 2012

To: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee

From: Randy Minniear, Senior Vice President, Government Relations & Policy
Jessica M. Cohen, Director, Government Relations & Policy
Neil Eicher, Deputy Director, Government Relations & Policy

Cc: Jennifer Taylor, Assembly Democratic Office
Jerry Traino, Assembly Republican Office
Philip Liloia, Office of Legislative Services

Re: **A-2463 – Revises Requirements for Emergency Medical Services Delivery.**

On behalf of NJHA, we are writing to express our *support* for **A-2463 (Conaway; D-Delran)** which would provide for a variety of statutory measures to enhance the scope and quality of the emergency medical services system in New Jersey.

In 2007, the New Jersey Legislature directed the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Senior Services to conduct a study of the New Jersey emergency medical services (EMS) system. The findings of that study (“*EMS System Review*,” TriData, Sept. 2007) indicated the state’s enabling EMS legislation and subsequent regulations require comprehensive overhaul in order to allow the system, and its various components, to make necessary improvements in medical care and to function in the most optimal and cost effective manner. It further found that such changes were needed soon to avoid a catastrophic failure of the system.

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services directed the state’s EMS Council to review the TriData report and recommend a consensus path of action. To that end, the Council established a committee comprised of the entire Council as well as virtually all other stakeholders in the state’s EMS system and convened the group in an unprecedented series of meetings over several months. Following extensive, detailed discussion and debate, the committee successfully concluded its deliberations with the design of a new advisory board, constructed to consolidate numerous, disconnected existing groups, provide full stakeholder representation and empowered to significantly change the system as necessary. The committee also performed a comprehensive consolidation and re-write of the state’s various EMS related legislation, addressing several critical elements identified in the study. All of the recommendations from the committee were voted on and all passed unanimously.

A-2463 incorporates these unanimous recommendations and provides for a variety of statutory measures to enhance the scope and quality of the emergency medical services system in New Jersey, as well as improve its efficiency, streamline its bureaucracy and reduce its overall system cost to patients, taxpayers and the state. The bill addresses the issues raised by the Legislature’s

mandated TriData EMS study and the recommendations made by the EMS Council's committee in the following ways:

- The bill establishes, through a consolidation of numerous groups, task forces and advisory boards, a governing body – the Emergency Medical Care Advisory Board, or EMCAB – which will include industry leaders serving to advise the Department of Health and Senior Services on prehospital issues, medical care and the establishment of provider standards. Expert members from their field will serve without compensation;
- The bill requires the licensure of paramedics, EMTs and emergency medical responders and further requires them to undergo a background check;
- The bill directs the commissioner of Health and Senior Services to report to the Governor and the Legislature, no later than December 31 of each year, on the adequacy of emergency medical services, and to identify funding needed for the succeeding fiscal year for infrastructure and research to encourage continued improvement of emergency medical services.

Again, we would like to urge the committee to support **A-2463**. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us at (609) 275-4251.