



Rhode Island Academy of  
**PHYSICIAN  
ASSISTANTS**

May 5, 2021

From: Rhode Island Academy of Physician Assistants

Re: House Bill No. 6282 – An Act Relating to Health and Safety - Emergency Medical Transportation Services – Ambulance Services Coordinating Board

Position: Opposed

The Honorable Stephen R. Casey  
Chair,  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
82 Smith St.  
Providence, R.I. 02903

Submitted electronically to. [HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov)

Dear Chairman Casey,

As the professional organization representing over 700 Rhode Island licensed physician assistants (PAs) the Rhode Island Academy of Physician Assistants (RIAPA) respectfully stands in strong opposition to H-6282.

Our opposition to this bill is based on the unprecedented removal of the authority of the Director of the Department of Health in regards to all matters pertaining to emergency medical service by requiring the approval of the retitled Ambulance Services Coordinating Board of all regulations, protocols, standards used by the director of health, minimum standards, licensing fees, restocking of municipal ambulance supplies and other administrative actions proposed by the Director. If enacted in its current form the Board would have complete control of emergency medical services. There is no other board within the Department of Health that has authority over the director.

We are especially concerned about the composition of the Board that would have total control over EMS.

As it stands the Board is composed predominately of individual representing organizations or constituencies being regulated by the Board. We believe this is a clear conflict of interest. For example, the Board will have final approval the licensing fees that most of the member will have to pay.

Rhode Island Academy of Physician Assistants  
405 Promenade St., Suite A  
Providence, R.I. 02908  
[info@RIAPA.org](mailto:info@RIAPA.org)    [WWW.RIAPA.org](http://WWW.RIAPA.org)

In addition, only three of the twenty-five position on the board can potentially be filled by physicians. We firmly believe that a board that will be making critical decisions about emergency medical care (i.e. protocols and standards of care) should have more input from physicians.

As you are well aware, the members of all boards are duty-bound to act in the best interest of the public. Given the testimony by the chair and members of this board to the Senate HHS Committee and recent comments by certain board members reported in the press it is apparent to us that many members have believe their responsibility is to their organizations.

This is not the first attempt to restrict the authority of the Director. Senate bill 951, introduced in the 2019 session of the General Assembly contained a provision that would have required the Senate and House to conduct public hearings and approve any regulations, policies, protocols etc. proposed by the Director. The provision was not enacted because it violated separation of powers. Now, two years later, we have another attempt to remove the Director's authority. This leads us to the the conclusion that this is simply a political maneuver with the sole purpose of giving special interests groups full authority over emergency medical services.

There is no possible justification that we can see for this change. What is the issue that it is meant to resolve?

In conclusion, the RIAPA believes this legislation is unwarranted, unrepresented, bad public policy and potentially harmful to the healthy and safety of the public. We urge the committee to oppose H-6282

Respectfully,

James Carney

Director of Advocacy and Government Relations



Rhode Island Academy of  
**PHYSICIAN  
ASSISTANTS**

Rhode Island Academy of Physician Assistants  
405 Promenade St., Suite A  
Providence, R.I. 02908  
[info@RIAPA.org](mailto:info@RIAPA.org)    [WWW.RIAPA.org](http://WWW.RIAPA.org)