

Re: Opposition to H6282

Dear Members of the Rhode Island House Health and Human Service Committee:

As President of the Rhode Island Emergency Nurses association I strongly opposes House H6282. This bill would remove Department of Health oversight of EMS and harm the people of this state.

The Department of Health ensures the health and safety of the people of Rhode Island. The RI DOH regulates far-ranging health measures from water quality to beauty salons to physician and nursing licensure. It ensures quality, training, safety, and professionalism. Would you support a bill removing DOH oversight of hospitals? nursing homes? Probably not. EMS is no exception.

This bill would remove the Department of Health's regulatory authority and oversight for EMS and place it in the hands of the Ambulance Service Coordinating Advisory Board, which would be renamed the Ambulance Service Coordinating Board (ASCB) to reflect the newly obtained authority over themselves and the DOH.

This legislation would create an egregious conflict of interest by allowing EMS to be run by members of the ASCB, which is composed predominantly of **members from special interest groups and political appointees.**

If this legislation passes, this board will determine patient care protocols, licensing, training, patient care and safety standards. Most egregiously, this legislation allows the ASCB to self-discipline. Members of this board have a long history of reluctance to adopt evidence-based practice standards or discipline its members: www.propublica.org/series/a-911-emergency

Quite simply, Rhode Islanders will be harmed if this bill becomes law. We encourage you to vote against it.

Respectfully,

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President, R.I. Emergency Nurses Association