

## Lisa Cataldi

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**From:** Ryan McTaggart <mctaggart@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 1:14 PM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Subject:** Ryan McTaggart 8262 Against

Name; Ryan A. McTaggart M.D.  
Bill Number: 6282  
Viewpoint: Against

Date 5/3/2021

Re: Opposition to 6282

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

I am the Chair of the Rhode Island Stroke Task Force and a devoted physician living and working in RI. I am writing to inform you that I strongly oppose House Bill 6282. This bill would remove Department of Health (DOH) oversight of EMS at time when it is needed most and will likely cripple health care innovation in the State for years to come.

In 2015, I came to Rhode Island to improve stroke care delivery in the State and in only a few short months, I collaborated with the DOH and innumerable EMS providers across the State to transform stroke care delivery here to the best in the world. We deliver better, more-timely access to the right treatment for stroke patients than any other geographic region in the world. This transformation was driven by data and policy created by and managed by the Department of Health and has saved a tremendous amount of downstream health care costs for the State.

What we have done for stroke care delivery can be done for many other diseases: trauma, STEMI, addiction medicine, etc. and what excites me most is the opportunity to leverage new technology to further improve pre-hospital care such as telemedicine for community paramedicine – this would save the State money by keeping patients healthy and at home avoiding expensive, unnecessary visits to our hospitals.

I am a champion of our EMS professionals – I think they are the most critical link in the chain of survival for many diseases. For this reason, it is essential they collaborate have evidence-based structure, oversight, and support from the DOH.

I see health care in Rhode Island as an opportunity – an opportunity for healthcare to be the best it can be. This can only be achieved with data, transparency and collaboration. We need to know where our patients go and what happens to them so we can deliver the best care for any disease to all in Rhode Island – this will never be achieved under the structure proposed by this bill. Your Committee deserves a pre-hospital bill laser-focused on improving patient care delivery – House bill 6282 couldn't be further off course.

Yours faithfully,

Ryan A. McTaggart M.D.

Director of Interventional Neuroradiology

Rhode Island Hospital

Chair, Rhode Island Stroke Task Force