

Rep. McNamara, Joseph M.

From: Varamo, Vincent M <VVaramo@KentRI.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 10:26 AM
To: Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Blazejewski, Christopher R.; Rep. Biah, Nathan W.; Rep. Kislak, Rebecca M.; Rep. Ranglin-Vassell, Marcia R.; Rep. Hull, Raymond A.; Rep. Morales, David; Rep. Lombardi, John J.; Rep. Williams, Anastasia P.; Rep. Slater, Scott; Rep. Diaz, Grace; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Perez, Ramon A.; Rep. Lima, Charlene; Rep. Fenton-Fung, Barbara Ann; Rep. Potter, Brandon C.; Rep. Baginski, Jacquelyn M.; Rep. Handy, Arthur; Rep. McNamara, Joseph M.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Vella-Wilkinson, Camille; Rep. Solomon, Joseph J. Jr.; Rep. Shekarchi, K Joseph; Rep. Shanley, Evan P.; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Morgan, Patricia L.; Rep. Serpa, Patricia A.; Rep. Nardone, George A.; Rep. Roberts, Sherry; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Tanzi, Teresa A.; Rep. Fogarty, Kathleen A.; Rep. Filippi, Blake A.; Rep. Azzinaro, Samuel A.; Rep. Kennedy, Brian Patrick; Rep. Price, Justin; Rep. Chippendale, Michael W.; Rep. Quattrocchi, Robert J.; Rep. Cardillo, Edward T. Jr.; Rep. Fellela, Deborah A.; Rep. Costantino, Gregory J.; Rep. Ackerman, Mia A.; Rep. Shallcross Smith, Mary Ann; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Newberry, Brian C.; Rep. Lima, Steven J.; Rep. Casey, Stephen M.; Rep. Phillips, Robert D.; Rep. Marszalkowski, Alex; Rep. Hawkins, Bernard A.; Rep. O'Brien, William W.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Giraldo, Joshua J.; Rep. McLaughlin, James; Pacheco, Rebecca
Subject: Opposition to 6282

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

I am an emergency physician in Rhode Island, and I oppose House Bill 6282. 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. EMS is no exception.

This bill would remove the Department of Health's regulatory authority and oversight for EMS and place veto power 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. I encourage you to vote against it.

My name is Vincent Varamo, I am an Emergency Medicine physician at Kent hospital, and an EMS Medical Director for many municipalities in this state. To date, I have received no financial compensation from any township to do so. As an Emergency Medicine physician, I work hand in hand with EMS services daily, and our community relies on their excellent care. This bill is concerning as it is actively attempting to remove protective oversight from the Department of Health, further diminishing protection for patients that are transported (or not in some cases) for more definitive care.

Thank you for your time,

Vince Varamo, DO
Kent Hospital Emergency Medical Service Liaison
Emergency Medicine Residency Academic Faculty

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