

Date 6/12/2021

Re: 6282 Sub. A

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

The Rhode Island Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians conditionally supports 6282 Sub A. We represent approximately 250 Emergency Medicine Physicians living and practicing in our state.

We greatly appreciate Chairman Casey for reaching out to us as this bill was developed and are so thankful to have our voices heard during the early planning stages. We generally support the language of the Sub A of 6282 on the condition of two simple changes which would greatly safeguard our fire departments, medical directors, towns and their residents.

Two words, "National," and "Minimum" would improve this bill significantly and be something we could all proudly stand behind.

Specifically:

23-4.1-3 subsection d: We respectfully request that the language be changed to "The standards used by the director shall be reasonable and based on local, state and **national** standards." We strongly believe and think it is reasonable that national EMS standards be considered in our state.

23-4.1-8 subsection a: We respectfully request that the last sentence be changed to "The ambulance service coordinating advisory board shall establish **minimum** standards for the duties and responsibilities of the physician medical director." We are concerned that the ASCAB could limit the role of the physician medical director without the word "minimum," and at the same time put handcuffs on towns, EMS agencies, and fire departments that have traditionally enjoyed an involved medical director and robust quality assurance programs within the EMS agencies.

Thank you for considering these changes, and we look forward to working with the Committee in the future.

Sincerely,



Otis Warren, MD

President, American College of Emergency Physicians, RI Chapter