



# RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

June 14, 2021

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey  
Chair, House Health and Human Services Committee  
Room 135, State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Casey:

re: 21H-6282, Sub. A  
Representative Fellela

The Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS) conditionally supports 6282 Sub A.

Thank you to Chairman Casey and others who have taken a thoughtful, collaborative approach to this legislation.

RIMS' recommendations mirror those of the Rhode Island Chapter of Academy of Emergency Physicians, (RI-ACEPS) calling for two crucial changes. The addition of two words, "national," and "minimum" would improve this bill significantly.

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 this change is one of patient safety 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 and the department shall establish minimum standards for the duties and responsibilities of the physician medical director."

We share the RI ACEP concern 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 your consideration of the recommended changes. We greatly appreciate the open collaboration to support the evolving field of emergency medical services and improving health care in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Cummings, MD  
President