



Professional Ambulance • 26 Turner Street Providence, RI 02908 • fax: 401-274-8688

DISPATCH
401-383-5100

March 21, 2023

House Bill H 5681

Dear Sirs, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 5681. The Ambulance has been the only mode of transportation for stretcher bound patients for many years. Ambulances are staffed by licensed and trained Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). EMTs are licensed at three levels and assigned to patients based on the medical needs of the patient. Ambulances are operated by state licensed ambulance services, and carry a wide array of diagnostic and interventional equipment. All this is to ensure the medical needs of our elderly and sick are properly meet during transport, while out of their facility.

Recently the state through its transportation broker, MTM, has started substituting "gurney vans" or "ambulettes" for ambulances. The crew of these vehicles has no training or licensure. The vans have no medical equipment or licensure as well. They typically use a substandard stretcher mount system which the Department of transportation has ordered discontinued in ambulances. These vans are not inspected by the department of health nor are the accredited by Medicare.



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The use of these vans will result in a two tiered health care system. Medicare Patients will continue to be transported by licensed, inspected ambulances. State Medicaid patients, often the weakest and poorest amongst us, will be relegated to unlicensed ,uninspected vans in a misguided effort to save a modest amount of money. This bill will protect Rhode Islanders for an egregious reduction in a long ago established standard of care.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Baginski".

Joseph Baginski

Professional Ambulance

