



March 21, 2007

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El Dorado
Imperial
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Monterey
Mountain-Valley
North Coast
Northern California
Orange
Riverside
Sacramento
San Benito
San Diego
San Francisco
San Joaquin
San Luis Obispo
San Mateo
Santa Barbara
Santa Clara
Santa Cruz
Sierra-Sac Valley
Solano
Ventura

The Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4061
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 583/Ridley-Thomas - Oppose Unless Amended

Dear Senator Ridley-Thomas:

The Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California (EMSAAC) represents the local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) that coordinate and regulate the delivery of emergency medical services in California.

EMSAAC opposes SB 583 unless it is amended. Emergency Medical Technician I's (EMT I's) are an integral part of the emergency medical services team. It is essential that EMT I's continue to remain under the umbrella of consistent, uniform medical control of an EMS agency medical director. This uniformity includes reviews of medical performance and adherence to medical protocols and standards and, when necessary, uniformly applied disciplinary actions.

An employer, whether public or private sector, cannot, and should not be expected to, evaluate an EMT I's medical performance within an EMS system. We cannot support legislation that permits each individual employer to administer disciplinary judgments upon medical personnel operating within an organized system of emergency medical services. This is a proposal that guarantees inconsistency in imposing discipline and fractures the medical control within an EMS Agency.

Additionally, SB 583 will create major financial burdens upon counties by requiring that local EMS agency disciplinary actions be conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act. Local EMS agencies

are currently required to have their disciplinary policies approved by the State EMS Authority. Policies currently provide for an impartial investigative review panel to ensure an individual's due process.

We welcome continued discussions with your staff to attempt to craft language that addresses our concerns and ensures that EMT I's remain within the organized system of emergency medical services.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Meyer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Carol Meyer, President, EMSAAC
Director, Los Angeles County EMS Agency

CM: ba

cc: EMSAAC Board
Emergency Medical Directors Association of California (EMDAC)