



May 19, 2008

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

RE: SB 997 - OPPOSE

Dear Senator Ridley-Thomas:

The Emergency Medical Services Administrator's Association of California (EMSAAAC) must respectfully oppose your SB 997, relating to certification and discipline of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics.

EMSAAAC is an active participant, along with the other EMT stakeholders, in the EMT Task Force which has been convened by the Administration, as directed by the Governor in his veto message of AB 941 last year. This Task Force is meeting regularly and is diligently working through the many issues related to EMT certification and discipline procedures in order to reach a consensus approach, which is being amended into AB 2917/Torrico as each section is agreed upon by the Task Force. The Task Force is also working to assure that the policy concerns raised by the Governor in his AB 941 veto message are addressed. We urge you to join in this effort.

There are two critical policy issues currently being worked through by this Task Force which are not adequately addressed in SB 997:

1. The EMT Registry and Administrative Law Judge hearings must be fee supported.
2. There must be a mechanism for temporary suspension, pending hearing, of an EMT by the Emergency Medical Services Agency Medical Director in cases where the public safety is threatened.

In addition, we believe Section 1798.200 (c), which details specific actions subject to denial, suspension or revocation of an EMT or paramedic certificate or license, are appropriate and should not be altered.

We would be pleased to discuss these issues, and the work of the EMT Task Force, at any time. I can be reached at (408) 885-4250.

Sincerely,

Bruce H. Lee
EMSAAAC President

Santa Clara County
EMS Agency Director