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July 6, 2007

The Honorable Ellen Corbett, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 3092
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 220/Bass – Oppose Unless Amended – Set to be heard 7/10/07

Dear Senator Corbett:

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.

AB 220, the Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights, poses major concerns for EMS agency administrators and agency medical directors relating to the medical control of prehospital care personnel. Additionally, AB 220 imposes unnecessary and expensive mandates upon local agencies by requiring agencies to follow administrative law procedures. EMS agencies ensure the safety of the public by ensuring that the same standards for medical oversight are applied equally to the public and private sector. To remove public sector firefighters from that oversight represents a threat to LEMSA responsibility to protect the health and safety of 9-1-1 patients. Further, EMS agencies already ensure the due process rights of those prehospital care medical personnel whose medical performance is reviewed by the local EMS agency medical director.

EMSAAC opposes AB 220 unless it is amended to delete language relating to “licensing and certifying authorities”. We pledge to continue to work with legislators, their staff, and all groups to ensure legislation that will protect vulnerable patients that depend on prehospital care.

Very truly yours,

Bruce H. Lee, President, EMSAAC
Administrator, Santa Clara County EMS Agency

BL: ba

cc: The Honorable Karen Bass, California State Assembly
Gloria Megino-Ochoa, Deputy Chief Consultant, Senate Judiciary Committee
Mike Petersen, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus