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Santa Clara
Santa Cruz
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Solano
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SENATE FLOOR ALERT

TO: Members, California State Senate

FROM: Bruce H. Lee, President, EMSAAC

DATE: September 6, 2007

RE: AB 941/Torrice – **Oppose Unless Amended**

The Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California (EMSAAC) represents the local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSA's) that coordinate and regulate the delivery of emergency medical services in California. The Medical Directors of LEMSA's are responsible for the medical control of emergency medical services and for ensuring that the public receives medical care from competent and medically qualified emergency medical personnel.

As EMSAAC's member on the State Emergency Medical Services Commission, I have been chairing a Commission Task force of members representing the California Fire Chiefs, California Ambulance Association, the Emergency Medical Directors Association of California, and California Professional Firefighters Association to reach consensus on language that serves the needs of our groups and protects the public. We have made great progress on most issues; however, there are key missing components in AB 941. Unfortunately, despite having received assurances that our concerns would be addressed and that we would have an opportunity to review the language before the bill went into print, that review did not occur. As a result, EMSAAC must oppose AB 941 until our major issues are addressed.

The specific points that must be included in this bill in order to ensure our ability to protect the public safety include:

- Immediate notification to the LEMSA Medical Director that an investigation has begun by the authorized provider.
- The authority of the LEMSA Medical Director to suspend immediately an EMT I who poses a threat to the public safety.

Additionally, in Section 1707.170, (B), EMT I's should only be allowed to be recertified through their employer or through the LEMSA, not through any entity.

We continue to support partnering with provider agencies to address their concerns; however, in order to do so, we cannot forgo the responsibilities of LEMSA's to protect the public.