



July 3, 2017

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Northern California
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San Benito
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San Joaquin
San Luis Obispo
San Mateo
Santa Barbara
Santa Clara
Santa Cruz
Sierra-Sac Valley
Solano
Tuolumne
Ventura
Yolo

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 263 (Rodriguez): Emergency medical services workers: rights and working conditions
As Amended June 21, 2017 – OPPOSE
Set for Hearing July 10, 2017 – Senate Appropriations Committee**

Dear Senator Lara:

The Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association (EMSAAC) is opposed to AB 263 (as amended June 21, 2017), introduced by Assembly Member Freddie Rodriguez, which mandates new requirements related to meal and rest periods of certain emergency medical services (EMS) employees and requires the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), to post an annual report on its website regarding violent incidents involving EMS providers.

EMSAAC strongly believes that AB 263 will have a negative impact on EMS systems throughout the State by extending critical response times and adding significant costs to EMS systems and ambulance providers, which ultimately is passed on to the patient. EMS systems and the deployment of ambulances are carefully designed to respond to medical emergencies in the quickest manner possible. In many cases, the response time is the difference between life and death. By requiring that private ambulance providers relinquish control of ambulances during break periods, AB 263 allows ambulance personnel to wander outside of their area, possibly out of position for an emergency response. This is very troublesome and will result in more costly emergency medical services, particularly in rural and remote areas where ambulance coverage is already a challenge.

As written, this bill could be interpreted by employees of private ambulance services as prohibiting them from responding to medical emergencies, even when they are the closest emergency ambulance. The potential to deny people access to emergency medical care when they are experiencing an acute injury or illness must be resolved.

EMSAAC represents the 33 local emergency medical services (EMS) agency administrators representing all of California's 58 counties. EMSAAC's legislative priorities include ensuring appropriate medical oversight of the EMS system.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact our EMSAAC Legislative Committee Chairperson, Dan Burch, EMS Administrator, San Joaquin County, at (209) 468-7495, or by email dburch@sjgov.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Petrie". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Michael Petrie
EMSAAC President

cc: The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Member, California State Assembly
 Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
 Robert Ingenito, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
 Cory Botts, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus