



August 25, 2017

Alameda  
Central California  
Coastal Valleys  
Contra Costa  
El Dorado  
Imperial  
Inland Counties  
Kern  
Los Angeles  
Marin  
Merced  
Monterey  
Mountain-Valley  
Napa  
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  
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 Suspense File Hearing September 1, 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. It is for these reasons EMSAAC opposes AB 263 and respectfully requests your 'No' vote on this measure.

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](mailto: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