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Date: June 20, 2023

To: The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

The Honorable Philip Ting, Chair,
Assembly Budget Committee

RE: Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) Removal of Medical Doctor Requirement for the EMSA Director and Appointment of a Chief Medical Officer.

The Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California (EMSAAC) and the Emergency Medical Directors' Association of California (EMDAC) have respectfully taken an OPPOSE position to the proposed budget trailer bill to remove the physician requirement for the Director and create a chief medical officer position at the Emergency Medical Services Authority.

EMSAAC and EMDAC firmly believe physician leadership is a key element to the safe delivery of evidence-based EMS care in California. We appreciate the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) for engaging with our organizations on this proposal and our proposed amendments. Unfortunately, those discussions have not resulted in language that would maintain independent authority for the EMSA Chief Medical Officer to oversee the medical aspects of the state EMS system, which is critically needed should the physician requirement be removed from the EMSA Director.

There is a balance to be achieved between administrative leadership and clinical leadership at the executive level of healthcare governance. As a healthcare industry, EMS clinical decisions should be made, independently by a clinician, not an administrator. Not only does this add credibility to the Authority's clinical decisions, it threatens to delegitimize the State's approach to clinically sound and effective EMS healthcare to over 40 million Californians. What has made physician leadership successful both at the state and local level has been the manner in which statute clearly identifies the authority of each at their respective roles.

EMSAAC and EMDAC support CalHHS's goal to have an administrative leader at EMSA, but respectfully urge the Legislature and Administration to codify the authority of physician leadership and clinical oversight of patient care at EMSA.

We continue to welcome the opportunity to work with the Legislature and Administration on language which clearly provides physician leadership at EMSA with the necessary authority to assure the continued delivery of high-quality clinical care to patients.

Best Regards,

Nick Clay
EMSAAC President

Katherine Staats, MD, FACEP, FAEMS
EMDAC President



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Cc: Honorable Members, California State Senate
Honorable Members, California State Assembly
Marjorie Swartz, Consultant, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Mary Ader, Consultant, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Jason Sisney, Budget Director, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance
Elizabeth Basnett, Acting Director, Emergency Medical Services Authority
Christy Bouma, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor
Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Julie Souliere, Assistant Secretary, California Health & Human Services Agency