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Date: May 24, 2023
To: The Honorable Philip Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee
From: Nick Clay, EMSAAC President 
RE: Item 4140: EMSA Director and Chief Medical Officer (Row 14) –
Support Staff Recommendation

The Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California (EMSAAC), represents all 34 Local Emergency Medical Services Agencies (LEMSAs) in California, covering all 58 counties and their 40 million residents. We support the staff recommendation to adopt placeholder trailer bill language to clarify the authority of the chief medical officer. We would ask that this clarification accomplishes two things: 1) more comprehensively update statute to assign all clinical and medical aspects of the state's EMS system to the Chief Medical Officer; and 2) Require the EMSA Director to have extensive experience in emergency medical services, health, public health, or a related field.

This aligns with the EMSAAC's prior request that the CMO, as a physician, be given the oversight authority over the medical aspects of EMSA – including medical guidance, practices, standards, and policies and the requested background requirements for the EMSA Director. Without this, EMSAAC does not believe the requirement for the director to be a licensed physician should be removed.

EMSAAC respectfully urges the Assembly Budget Committee to adopt the placeholder language and would offer EMSAAC's drafted amendments (enclosed) for consideration for the final language. We look forward to working with the Legislature and Administration to ensure the appropriate medical oversight over the state EMS system.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Betsy Armstrong at (916) 327-7540.

cc:
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Assembly Speaker
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Jason Sisney, Budget Director, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Mary Ader, Consultant, Office of the Assembly Speaker
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