




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
Stanislaus
Tuolumne
Ventura
Yolo

Date: May 24, 2023

To: The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3

From: Nick Clay, EMSAAC President 

RE: EMSA Issue 16 – EMSA Director and Chief Medical Officer – Support Staff Recommendations

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: 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 placeholder language 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 subcommittee 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:

Scott Ogus, Consultant, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Kirk Feely, Budget Director, Senate Republican Caucus
Elizabeth Basnett, Acting Director, Emergency Medical Services Authority
Erika Li, Chief Deputy Director, Budgets, Department of Finance
Julie Souliere, Assistant Secretary, California Health & Human Services Agency