



April 15, 2015

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San Mateo
Santa Barbara
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Solano
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The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4166
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1223/O'Donnell (as amended 4/14/15) – Oppose

Dear Assembly Member O'Donnell:

The Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California (EMSAAC) and the Emergency Medical Directors Association of California (EMDAC) have taken an oppose position on your AB 1223, which would allow local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) to permit the transportation of noncritical patients to alternate locations.

The extraordinary delays being experienced within EMS system in transferring patient care from ambulances to emergency department threatens patient safety and the ability of EMS resources to respond to medical emergencies. While EMSAAC and EMDAC are very interested in working to mitigate ambulance offload delays we can support AB 1223's approach to addressing this issue.

In addition, recent amendments make the bill even more problematic. The Maddy Fund was established to provide critically needed funds to physicians, surgeons and hospitals providing uncompensated emergency services. Maddy Funds serve as an important funding source for emergency services; however, the funds collected are limited, and do not cover the true cost of treating the uninsured in our emergency departments. While seeking treatment for patients in less-costly alternate locations is a laudable goal, tapping Maddy Funds to do so would reduce available funding for ER physicians and hospitals, jeopardizing desperately needed emergency services particularly in for California's urban and rural emergency departments.

EMSAAC represents the 33 local emergency medical services (EMS) agency administrators representing all of California's 58 counties. The mission of the Emergency Medical Directors Association of California, Inc. (EMDAC) is to provide leadership and expert opinion in the medical oversight, direction and coordination of Emergency Medical Services for the people of the State of California.

If you should have any questions, please contact EMSAAC's Legislative Chair Dan Burch at (209) 468-6818.

Sincerely,

Dan Lynch
EMSAAC President

Greg H. Gilbert, MD
EMDAC President