



May 9, 2018

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Northern California
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San Joaquin
San Luis Obispo
San Mateo
Santa Barbara
Santa Clara
Santa Cruz
Sierra-Sac Valley
Solano
Tuolumne
Ventura
Yolo

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2293/Reyes – Emergency medical services: licensure
As Amended April 26, 2018 – OPPOSE
Set for Hearing May 4, 2018 – Assembly Appropriations Committee

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

The Emergency Medical Services Administrators Association of California (EMSAAAC) and the Emergency Medical Directors Association of California (EMDAC) strongly oppose AB 2293 by Assembly Member Eloise Gómez Reyes, which amends Health and Safety Code Section 1798.200 by severely restricting the ability of the local EMS agency (LEMSA) medical directors and the director of the EMS Authority to protect the public's health and safety by denying licenses to applicants or imposing disciplinary action against EMTs, EMT-ILs, and paramedics.

Existing statutory standards for discipline of pre-hospital personnel were developed in collaboration with numerous EMS stakeholders to ensure both patient safety and the opportunity for individuals to not be unnecessarily excluded from certification for past criminal convictions unrelated to the duties, qualifications and functions of prehospital medical care personnel. We are extremely concerned that AB 2293 will eliminate safeguards placing patients at serious risk from individuals posing a serious threat to the public's health and safety. Pre-hospital personnel serve on ambulances, emergency response apparatus, and remote first-aid areas providing services to vulnerable patients, many who are elderly and alone, in their homes with little direct supervision. For this reason and others we believe that standards for who is eligible for certification and licensure should remain high.

Most troubling is that this bill strikes the authority of local EMS agencies and the EMS Authority to deny certification or licensure to any applicant regardless of the seriousness of past criminal history including violent sex offenders and convicted pedophiles. While this may not be the intent of the bill, it is the result.

Additionally, this bill will increase costs for local EMS agencies ranging in the tens of thousands of dollars due to required revisions to policies, an expected increase in the volume of applications from individuals with serious criminal histories requiring in depth evaluation, ensuring fire department and ambulance compliance with revised standards, and the potential for more complex and more frequent administrative law proceedings and the setting of new legal precedents. The EMS Authority will likely face a similar increase in costs related to this bill.

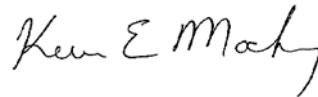
EMSAAC represents the 33 local emergency medical services (EMS) agency administrators representing all of California's 58 counties. The mission of the Emergency Medical Directors Association of California, Inc. (EMDAC) is to provide leadership and expert opinion in the medical oversight, direction and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



Michael Petrie
EMSAAC President



Kevin Mackey, MD
EMDAC President

cc: The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes, Member, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Lisa Murawski, Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Peter Anderson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus