

THE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.



Statement of the Regional EMS Council of NYC Governor's Budget – Article 30 Revisions

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February 10, 2012

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For the past 36 years, the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City has coordinated Emergency Medical Services in one of the largest and most diverse EMS systems in the world. The NYC EMS System, comprised of 79 Ambulance and ALS First Response Services, has distinguished itself as a model for other urban areas to learn from and to follow.

The Council and its members support and applaud the Governor and the work of the SAGE commission in its effort to streamline government and increase efficiencies. The following comments are respectfully submitted for consideration to enhance the efficiency of future EMS activities around the state.

1. The proposed legislation identifies Six (6) **Regional Advisory Boards** replacing the current 18 Regional EMS Councils, a 2/3 decrease.

We recommend that the current 18 Regional EMS Councils be preserved in order to maintain representation from constituents of local regions. This can be done at minimal cost to the State since those Regional Councils consist of unpaid volunteers and each council receives only \$25,000 per year.

For further consideration, we propose that cities with a population of greater than one million be identified as separate Regions.

2. The proposed legislation identifies a reduction of participants on the **State Advisory Board** (formerly, the State EMS Council). Again we ask that representation from constituent regions be preserved. In order to do this, we request that one member from each Regional Advisory Board continue to have a seat on the State Board to provide information directly affecting the respective region. We further request that each Regional Board have the ability to nominate to the commissioner the respective member for the relevant term.
3. Regional EMS Councils have historically been charged with **development and promulgation of protocols and procedures** in their respective regions. Legislation proposes that the Commissioner of Health or Department develop, approve and distribute policies and procedures relating to the EMS community. We respectfully request that language be amended to include a sixty day comment and advisory period to promote an exchange of information relative to the affected regions prior to implementation of new/revised policies and procedures.

We believe these suggestions to the proposed legislation are consistent with the goals set forth by the SAGE commission, and that they maintain the checks and balances that only local representation can ensure.

Thank you for your time, and we would welcome the opportunity to present our proposal to the appropriate parties.

Respectfully submitted by the members of the Regional EMS Council of NYC.