

Stamford Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.

142 Stebbins Lane
Stamford, VT 05352

Date: 2/21/20

From: Chief Paul Ethier

To: Senate Committee on Government Operations

Regarding: EMS Bill Provision

[[IN RELATION TO DRAFT EMS BILL PROVISIONS]]

Following my in-person testimony on January 8, 2020, I have reviewed the EMS Bill Provisions currently in committee discussion. I feel that the following provisions listed below will have both short term and long-term positive effects on volunteer rural EMS response. Furthermore, the addition of a “community responder” level makes sense for fire department-based organizations like ours. This level of training will put more responders on the streets resulting in lower response times, while at the same time get lifesaving care such as CPR, AED, Narcan and Stop the Bleed to our most rural Vermonters.

Thank you to the committee for their work on these very important issues.

1. Page 6, line 8-13 – Currently it takes us 4 months to get a license. By the time we fill out the application, get it signed at the district level, sent it to VT EMS and get it back. A three-year license makes complete sense and will alleviate a lot of work for department heads.
2. Page 9, Line 14-18 – The current credentialing system is far too labor intensive and counterproductive.
3. Page 10, Line 3-17 – This will help get trained people on the street.
4. Page 12, Line 4-9 – A entry level community responder is exactly what is needed to get help to the 911 caller quickly. This is also an attainable level of training for fire department based first responder agencies.
5. Page 13, Line 8-11 – With the technology available today this will help keep our volunteers.
6. Page 17, Line 14 – I support this provided an effort is made to have more education opportunities made available online.
7. Page 19, Entire Page – We need to embrace online distance learning for EMS to be successful.