

My Name is Karl Stein I am AEMT and EMS Instructor. I 16 year currently working with NEMS in Johnson Vermont and spent 15 years working as a Volunteer for Hardwick Rescue Services in Hardwick. I am a retired teacher and principal and worked for the Department of Education for 5 years,

I want to be clear before I start:

- The people I work with at the Vermont Office of EMS are extremely competent, responsive to our questions and consistently supportive of the work we do.
- They have continuously sought to improve our services, make sure our protocols are based on solid research and focused on improvement.
- Increasing demands, staff shortage and turnover within the leadership roles at Vermont Office of EMS has hampered their ability to get work done. Yet they have stayed focused on the big issues and made serious efforts to bring in information from all facets of the EMS services in the state.

For EMS to make progress H.622 key components need to be approved.

- Create the Emergency Medical Services Task Force to inventory and assess the current EMS structure, gathering data from the field and make recommendations around design and implementation to improve emergency medical services in Vermont.
- It would turn the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee into a Board and revise its duties to include developing and maintaining a five-year statewide emergency medical services plan for Vermont.
- Increase Medicaid reimbursements for delivering services without transporting to a hospital and reimburse for transportation to an alternative destination
- Appropriate funds to provide training for emergency medical services personnel.

My reasons are simple:

- The Vermont Office of EMS by its nature is separated from the many various needs of the individual EMS services. The Task Force and Board will have a more diverse membership which includes EMS personnel who have boots on the ground as well as members of key organizations in the field.
- The work of the task force, if given the time and funds, will allow the Task Force to analyze the existing data and develop a comprehensive understanding of the issues that face EMS in Vermont from many different views.
- Among the many things the Task force needs to look into is the restructuring of our fourteen-district model. The duties of the District Heads of Services are broad and essential to the smooth running of our services. The fact that our District Heads of Services are unpaid means the time and quality these Heads of Services can put into the whole district is limited and variable across the state. The current model is at best dysfunctional.
- With these tasks completed the task force will provide the new Board with a map to develop their five-year statewide emergency medical services plan.
- This plan would:
 - Focus the legislature's funding priorities
 - Support the Vermont Office of EMS with the funds and staff it needs to implement the goals and

- Allow the New board to monitor, implementation and measure the performance targets laid out in the plan.
- Our current EMS State model tends to create single solutions to identified and address the needs of our EMS Services across the State. With such varied communities, educational and administrative needs across the state EMS services there is the need to create multiblade solutions to address the issues that face EMS services difficult to address with just one solution. The diverse membership of the Task Force and Board will increase the likelihood that their input can create multiple solutions to address the varying needs across the State instead of one solution with many exceptions.

Stories:

No Transport:

District failure:

Complaint process:

If you have any questions I will be glad to try my best to answer.