



January 15, 2021

To the Honorable Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair, Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

Re: State Senate bill 67, Emergency Medical Services - Paramedics - Vaccination Administration, by the Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request of Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems)

Dear Senator Pinsky:

I am writing today to offer the full unfettered support for this bill on behalf of the Commercial Ambulance Services in the State of Maryland, this past Wednesday at the Commercial Ambulance Service Advisory Committee at MIEMSS, our group past a unanimous resolution in favor of support for this bill.

The organization feels as though this bill is vital to the continued success of commercial services throughout the state to ensure that quick delivery of occupational health requirements, and vaccine administration to their staff. Ensuring safety and rapid access to the employees, as well as others in the community.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light the need for more coordination between EMS and other health care clinicians to work to ensure rapid deployment to both their work force as well as populations health clients. EMS clinicians are uniquely positioned in both high urban need centers as well is in the underserved and under positioned rural communities throughout the state, and are already trained in a plethora of drug administration, and function under medical control.

There is a current law in place to allow public safety EMS personnel to administer influenza, Hepatitis B, and TB Skin testing to their own personnel, however this law neither extends to commercial services, nor vaccines, nor administration to the public under Medical Direction. This pandemic has magnified the need for all. Commercial services, of which there are over 39 state wide, transport a large number of patients annual almost 250,000 state wide, and employ nearly 3,000 employees.



As healthcare evolves both through normal course, and with this pandemic it is critical we provide the support and infrastructure to allow them to function at optimal levels not handcuffing their ability to provide vaccines to their colleagues, and the general public, performing skills otherwise done through their normal course of business.

All services have seen long wait times to get vaccines often as a result of the staff to provide them, EMS clinician's through the emergency governors order are now being utilized to fill this gap and backlog, it only makes sense to continue this authorization well beyond the state of emergency.

Thank you for your time and consideration, we ask for your support for Senate bill 67.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Rosenberg", is centered between two vertical lines that form a rectangular frame.

William Rosenberg, M.S., NRP, CCEMT-P
Chairman, Commercial Ambulances Services Advisory Committee at MIEMSS
Chief Operating Officer, Butler Medical Transport