

Testimony for Public Hearing

Senate Judiciary Committee

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Good afternoon and my thanks to the Committee for allowing me the opportunity to provide comment on Senate Bill 427.

I am Tom Schmiedeknecht, I am President of Professional Med Team Ambulance based in Muskegon Michigan. We provide Ambulance service in Muskegon, Ottawa, Oceana and Newaygo Counties. I am also the Region 6 representative of the Michigan Association of Ambulance Services and a 35-year licensed healthcare provider. I am here in support of this bill.

I support the bill for three reasons.

First- I believe we need to support efforts that encourage people to stop and help others especially when those helpers are medically trained.

Second - EMS personnel are likely the most familiar with dealing with emergencies outside of a healthcare environment and should be enabled to do so.

Third - On-duty or off-duty EMS personnel are aware of personal risks to themselves when helping others and should not need to worry about being sued as a result.

When licensed EMS personnel are working for an agency we enjoy very good liability protection. We are covered by our agency as well as the EMS laws. However under the law as it stands when we are not working our protection is unclear. We recognize and accept the physical risks that may be encountered such as traffic and distracted drivers at a crash scene or blood borne diseases. An EMS caregiver should not have to add the risk of financial harm to them or their family should they be sued for the assistance they provide.

In summary, I support and MAAS supports the proposed legislative changes provided by Senate Bill 427 .

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to comment today.