



California State Association
of Counties

Agenda Item 4b



County Health Executives
Association of California

SENATE FLOOR ALERT

TO: Members, California State Senate
FROM: Jim Wiltshire, Deputy Director, CSAC
Judith Reigel, Executive Director, CHEAC
DATE: August 13, 2010
RE: AB 2456 (Torrico) – Employment Medical Services: Regulation
As Amended August 4, 2010 – OPPOSE

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC) have taken an oppose position on AB 2456. This measure would allow the director of the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) to overturn or abrogate any local EMS policies and procedures. Furthermore, AB 2456 will result in increases to fees charged to EMT and paramedic applicants to offset state costs imposed with the implementation of this bill.

We are deeply concerned with the August 4 amendments which greatly expand the prior scope of the bill and create a major shift of power from local Emergency Medical Services Agencies (LEMSAs) to the director of EMSA allowing him or her to overturn years of local EMS Agency policy development carried out at the direction of Boards of Supervisors and developed with the concurrence of county counsel, county medical societies, hospital administrators and other EMS system stakeholders.

We are also concerned about the unfunded mandates that will likely result from AB 2456. The bill shifts the state's administrative costs to local EMT certifying authorities (including county EMS agencies) as well as giving EMSA the authority to assess penalties on LEMSAs. Such costs will be borne by local government and local EMS providers in a climate of unprecedented economic uncertainty.

For all of the reasons stated above, CSAC and CHEAC must oppose AB 2456 by Assembly Member Torrico and urge your NO vote. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions.

cc: The Honorable Alberto Torrico



Emergency Medical Services Administrators'
Association of California

Agenda Item 4b

August 9, 2010

The Honorable Christine Kehoe
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol – Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2456/Torrico – As Amended August 4, 2010 - OPPOSE

Dear Senator Kehoe:

On behalf of the 31 local EMS agencies charged with planning, implementation and evaluation of local emergency medical services systems, the EMS Administrators' Association of California (EMSAAC) and the Emergency Medical Directors' Association of California (EMDAC) strongly oppose AB 2456 by Assembly Member Torrico. If enacted, AB 2456 would provide the Director of the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) with virtually unlimited power to overturn or cancel out local EMS policies and procedures on any subject. In addition, this bill will result in increases to fees charged to EMT and paramedic applicants to offset costs associated with implementation of this bill.

EMSAAC and EMDAC are greatly troubled by the August 4 amendments on lines 12-13 and 19-21 of page 5, which strike out the reference to subdivision (e) of Section 1797.184. These amendments greatly expand the scope of the bill and create a major shift of authority from local EMS agencies granted by the EMS Act to the Director of EMSA. This language would allow the director of EMSA to simply overturn years of local EMS agency policy development carried out at the direction of the Board of Supervisors and developed with the concurrence of county counsel, county medical societies, hospital administrators, and other EMS system stakeholders. Further, it will allow the Authority to fine counties for non-compliance. It is our experience that the existing two-tiered system of State and local EMS administration with medical control authority vested in the physician medical director of the local EMS agency works well for California.

AB 2456 would also impose a State-mandated local program by imposing new fees on counties, who are required under the EMS Act to be "certifying entities", to pay for the additional State administrative role and functions under this bill. Because counties would also have to shift these new costs to individual EMTs and paramedics, this bill will create a particularly negative impact to rural counties and volunteer EMS providers due to the increase in fees required to pay for the State's administrative costs.

For these reasons, EMSAAC and EMDAC urge your NO vote on AB 2456/Torrico.

Sincerely,

Miles Julihn, President
EMS Administrators'
Association of California

Reza Vaezazizi, MD, President
Emergency Medical Directors'
Association of California

cc: The Honorable Alberto Torrico
Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Consultant, Senate Republican Cau

Alameda
Central California
Coastal Valleys
Contra Costa
El Dorado
Imperial
Inland Counties
Kern
Los Angeles
Marin
Merced
Monterey
Mountain Valley
North Coast
Northern California
Orange
Riverside
Sacramento
San Benito
San Diego
San Francisco
San Joaquin
San Luis Obispo
San Mateo
Santa Barbara
Santa Clara
Santa Cruz
Sierra-Sacramento
Valley
Solano
Tuolumne
Ventura



Public Health Administration

300 North San Antonio Road ♦ Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1316
805/681-5100 ♦ FAX 805/681-5191

Takashi M. Wada, MD, MPH *Director/Health Officer*
Anne M. Fearon *Deputy Director*
Suzanne Jacobson, CPA *Chief Financial Officer*
Michele Micklewicz, MPH *Deputy Director*
Elizabeth Snyder, MHA *Deputy Director*
Peter Hasler, MD *Medical Director*

August 18, 2010

California is experiencing a pertussis (whooping cough) epidemic. As of July 29, 2010, seven infants in the state have died of this vaccine preventable disease and many others have become ill. Santa Barbara County supports Assembly Bill 354 which requires immunization for pertussis and would prevent the spread of the disease.

AB 354 will allow the Department of Public Health to add a pertussis booster vaccine (Tdap - tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) to the list of vaccines necessary for adolescent children to be considered fully immunized. This is an important step towards protecting infants and children from this disease.

The disease of pertussis is cyclical and every 3-5 years we can expect to see a major outbreak. A mandate for pertussis vaccination would reduce the impact of disease the next time around. California currently does not have the mandate and we have some of the highest rates of pertussis disease in the Country. As Dr. Snyderman stated on the Today show, "These illnesses should not be seen in the United States with the vaccinations we have at hand."

The costs to the State for hospitalization and treatment for MediCal patients alone, averages 12 million per year. Costs this year will easily exceed 12 million and likely double or triple for hospitalizations and treatment.

We urge support of AB 354 as a tool to protect our residents and prevent the spread of the disease.