



June 20, 2018

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The Honorable Richard Pan, M.D.
Chair, Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 2293 (Reyes) – Emergency Medical Services: Licensure
As Amended on May 25, 2018 – OPPOSE
Set for Hearing on June 27, 2018 – Senate Health Committee**

Dear Senator Pan:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) must regretfully oppose AB 2293 by Assembly Member Eloise Gómez Reyes as amended on May 25, 2018. This measure would erode the hiring and disciplinary authority of county emergency medical services (EMS) medical directors and administrators by requiring counties to certify applicants with serious criminal offenses as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and paramedics.

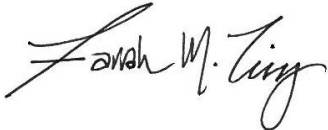
Our Local Emergency Medical Services Agencies (LEMSAs) and the state Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) are currently guided by existing statutory standards when licensing or hiring EMT and paramedic candidates. These comprehensive standards are designed to ensure patient safety while also allowing individuals with past criminal convictions unrelated to the duties, qualifications, and functions of prehospital medical care personnel to be certified and hired as EMTs and paramedics where appropriate.

AB 2293 destroys this careful framework and more than a decade of safe and effective EMT and paramedic certification. The bill would also prohibit LEMSAs and EMSA from taking disciplinary action when a licensed EMT or paramedic is arrested for a criminal offense, including serious drug offenses and violent crimes.

Counties must balance the safety of a public who rely on the life-saving skills of certified and licensed EMS professionals with our interest in providing living wage jobs to those who have been incarcerated or convicted of serious crimes. Local EMTs and paramedics differ from our brave wildland firefighters, some of whom serve on inmate and post-incarceration crews, because EMTs and paramedics regularly enter the homes of those they serve and handle various controlled substances. For this reason, counties believe that standards for who is eligible for certification and licensure as an EMT or paramedic should remain high.

CSAC must regretfully oppose AB 2293 to preserve the local and state authority to investigate EMT and paramedic applicants and discipline those who are arrested or convicted of serious crimes. This review process is critical to ensure the safety and security of the EMS system. Should you or your staff have additional questions about our OPPOSE position, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 327-7500 ext. 559 or fmcting@counties.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Farrah M. Ting". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "F".

Farrah McDaid Ting
Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes, Member, California State Assembly
Members, Senate Health Committee
Reyes Diaz, Consultant, Senate Health Committee
Marjorie Swartz, Policy Consultant, Office of Senate pro Tem Atkins
Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Michelle Gibbons, County Health Executives Association of California
Jennifer Lim, California Emergency Medical Services Authority