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**Testimony to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
From David Jones, President,  
Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC)  
August 22, 2013**

Subject: Final Form Regulations # 10-190 (IRRC 2917) regarding Emergency Medical Services

Good Morning, Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of the final regulations for Pennsylvania's Emergency Medical Services.

The Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council serves the Commonwealth as the state advisory council to the Pennsylvania Department of Health on all aspects of emergency health care. This mission is defined in the state EMS Act (Act 37 of 2009) and was also found in the previous Act from 1985 (Act 45).

The Council is composed of statewide, regional and local organizations that represent physicians, nurses, hospitals, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, ambulance services, and fire and rescue organizations. The Council, through its statewide committees representing all aspects of the system, has not only reviewed the proposed regulations, but also provided conceptual language, which assisted the Department in their development of the draft final regulations.

As you know, the current rules, with the exception of the regulation revisions published in 2000, are 24 years old.

Pennsylvania has one of the most outstanding Emergency Medical Service Systems in the country. Pennsylvania's law, regulations, programs and EMS plan have been used as models for other state systems throughout the United States.

EMS as we know it has only been around since the early 1970's and EMS systems are relatively new and dynamic entities. There has been significant growth in the EMS system during the last 13 years and Pennsylvania needs to respond to these changes. These changes are not isolated to the tools and the techniques discovered to improve the quality of care provided to patients in emergent circumstances but also change within the system that delivers that urgent life saving care.

The foundation for this dynamic system is the Emergency Medical Service Act and the subsequent regulations, which provide the necessary guidance and policy for a comprehensive emergency health care system to exist. The emergency health care team consists of players that have met specific standards to be part of that team to ensure the best possible care to Pennsylvania's citizens and visitors. In the majority of cases these standards are based upon a national set of guidelines and criteria that helps define what is commonly referred to as the standard of care.

As mentioned previously, PEHSC has worked closely with its member organizations and the Pennsylvania Department of Health to move Pennsylvania's EMS system ahead. Much of this work is reflected in these final regulations.

One of the responsibilities of the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council is to assist the Department of Health to resolve system issues while moving the system forward. We understand that it is impossible to create comprehensive system wide regulations that will be acceptable to everyone but we are ready, willing and able to assist the Department with any needed efforts to generate clarity to, and implement the regulations via policy development, waivers or education.

The system has struggled since the passage of Act 37 without these needed regulatory changes and today we need to commit to moving forward with the approval of these regulations which contain important elements that will improve the quality and scope of emergency care provided in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania's more than **50,000** certified first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics and health professionals, along with Pennsylvania's emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency departments, trauma centers and **1100 +** licensed EMS services need you to approve these regulations to enhance their ability to help others.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony in support of the final regulations, I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.