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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

2917

August 16, 2013

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Re: Department of Health – Emergency Medical Services System
Regulation Number: #10-190 (IRRC #2917)
Date of Hearing: August 22, 2013

Dear Commissioners:

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) is the lead public safety agency in the State for ensuring the safety of the Commonwealth's 12.5 million residents. The principle mission for PEMA, which the men and women in the agency live by every day, is to "save lives and minimize suffering".

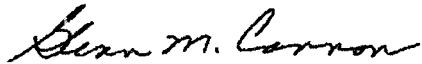
This past year over 9 million calls were made into the Commonwealth's sixty nine (69) Emergency Call Centers for Police, Emergency Medical, or Fire assistance. Two million of those calls have sick and injured directly/or indirectly involved requiring immediate lifesaving care and transport, or at a minimum quality emergency medical treatment and services to ensure positive outcomes. These medical emergencies originate from homes, businesses, transportation accidents, fires, recreational activities, and acts of violence and criminal activity, special events, commercial and industrial accidents, and much more.

The broad Emergency Medical System (EMS) in Pennsylvania is essential to life and longevity for all our residents. The EMS is regarded as very effective, efficient, and advanced. It is recognized as one of the finest in the country. This is accomplished by the outstanding commitment and hard work of the men and women that train, respond, provide first response, basic and advance life support, trauma, burn, critical care, and other essential services. They also provide various other medical services, treatments and transport by various means to hospitals and specialized trauma, burn, and pediatric centers in a manner that ensures a high quality standard level of care is delivered in every local municipality or county within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is imperative that a balance is in place to ensure emergency medical care, practices, research, and medical advancements that are supported and guided by realistic and achievable rules and regulations to ensure accountability.

I take this opportunity on behalf of PEMA to fully support and encourage adoption of the new EMS Regulations, IRRC #2917 currently under review as written to complement Act 37 of 2009.

Each and every day I have the opportunity to admire and respect the great individuals who work and provide emergency medical care throughout the Commonwealth. The professional and dedicated men and women of our Emergency Medical Services and System, along with our Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's residents deserve the benefits and guidance of these newly proposed EMS regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenn M. Cannon".

Glenn M. Cannon, Esq.
Director, PA Emergency Management Agency