**From:** Michael P. O’Brien, Fire Chief

**To:** DPH-Testimony, Reg (DPH)

**Subject:** Comment for August 1st DPH public hearing - proposed change to 105 CMR 170.000

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There seems to be a lack of situational awareness at the Department of Public Health when it comes to EMS. Perhaps we should call it a disconnect from our mission needs and reality.

What EMS services need more than anything is an increase in qualified and credentialed EMTs and paramedics. Instead of engaging in problem analysis and identifying measures that would improve current recruitment and retention deficiencies, DPH wants to institute policies that will further exacerbate our staffing crisis. In a perfect world, emergency responders would be all properly and safely vaccinated; but we are operating in a far from perfect world. The lack of sufficient and qualified staffing in the prehospital setting is a huge threat to public health and I see no evidence the DPH has done anything to improve this situation.

This is an egregiously bad policy proposal that will further destabilize our prehospital healthcare system that is already in crisis. Now is not the time for this…

Mike

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