Comment relative to

105 CMR 170.000, *Emergency Medical Services System*

My name is Ronald Audette and I have been an EMS provider in Southeastern Massachusetts for over 30 years working in the private/municipal/and hospital areas. I am also active in EMS education and administration at the local/regional/state level.

I do echo the statements made by several participating on the call today especially my brother and sister in EMS.

 I feel that while opportunity does exist for vaccination surveillance and availability within EMS, I feel the proposed amendments to regulation are too far reaching for EMS.

Furthermore, even with a medical or religious exemption feel this creates yet another barrier for employment with the private and municipal services located throughout the commonwealth. Services that are already struggling with recruitment and retention in an industry that is welcoming fewer and fewer new providers each year.

Lastly, these proposed changes could prove costly for small services and departments both paid and volunteer. They do not need yet another barrier to employment.

I strongly suggest the department work collaboratively with the various stakeholders to develop language that protects our patients as well as our providers.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views with you today.

Ronald Audette

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