

October 3, 2017

The Honorable Lana Theis
Chairwoman, House Insurance Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: House Bill 5013

Dear Chairwoman Theis:

The Michigan Association of Ambulance Services (MAAS) opposes House Bill 5013. HB 5013 safeguards the welfare of special interests at the expense of Emergency Medical Services personnel by requiring them to accept less than cost for the services they provide. The bill specifically singles out Michigan's ambulance providers by allowing the government to set rates, below the cost of treating and transporting a patient.

Michigan's ambulance agencies provide service regardless of a patient's insurance coverage and ability to pay. In fact, an ambulance agency is required to deliver services regardless of a patient's insurance coverage, as required by State law.

Ambulance agencies are at a financial crossroad. HB 5013 proposes to reduce payments to local ambulance agencies by 40% - 50%. This proposed reduction, combined with the lack of Medicaid reimbursement payment increase for twenty years, will exacerbate the problem forcing emergency agencies to make serious and possible life-threatening decisions about the care they can provide their local communities.

House Bill 5013 will put Michigan's already underpaid EMS providers under tremendous financial burden to the extent that many may not survive.

MAAS respectfully requests to be exempted from the requirements outlined in HB 5013.