



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**

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Director of Legislative Affairs

March 30, 2010

The Honorable Alberto Torrico
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2456 (Torrico) - As introduced on February 19, 2010 - OPPOSE

Dear Assemblyman Torrico:

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors regrets that it must oppose AB 2456. This legislation would modify the EMS Act to specify that guidelines issued by the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) -- including those dealing with medical control -- will require mandatory compliance by local EMS agencies when establishing local policies and procedures.

Adopting standardized medical guidelines on behalf of all of California's 58 counties is counter-productive due to the diversity of their settings and available resources. AB 2456 would negate local control over the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Authority (ICEMA), which provides emergency medical services to both urban areas and the many remote areas of San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono counties. Considering the geographical reach of ICEMA, one size does not fit all.

Voluntary best practice guidelines have long been a traditional method of fostering innovation and improvements in the delivery of medicine. The use of voluntary guidelines enables California's local EMS agencies to provide the best possible prehospital patient care that is based upon resources available in the local community and neighboring EMS systems. AB 2456 removes this invaluable approach to statewide EMS planning by elevating voluntary guidelines to the same level as mandatory regulations.

Finally, we are concerned about the unfunded mandates that are likely to be an unintended result of AB 2456. Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, the County's public hospital, would have to bear these costs, as well as local government and our local EMS providers. For these reasons, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors joins the California State Association of Counties in opposing AB 2456. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lance Larson, the County's Director of Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821. The Board thanks you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

GARY C. OVITT
Chairman, Board of Supervisors