



August 11, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
The Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

SUBJECT: Support for Enactment of Legislation S.1515 /A.2177 -- An act to amend the general municipal law, in relation to removing emergency medical services from the limit on real property tax levies by local governments

Dear Governor Hochul,

The emergency medical responders across our State that make up the New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association (NYSVARA) are grateful for your interest in legislation on emergency medical services.

The State Legislator has passed S.1515 /A.2177 to amend the general municipal law by removing emergency medical services from the limit on real property tax levies by local governments. This bill will soon be before you for signature. NYSVARA strongly supports this legislation and urges you to sign it into law.

Many NYSVARA member ambulance services are struggling to survive in the face of rising costs. In some communities, municipal funding partnerships have helped local ambulance squads close the gap between rising costs and stagnant revenues. However, those municipalities must weigh supporting the essential funding needs of their community's ambulance services in the context of all municipal budget demands.

The cost drivers impacting ambulance services are increasing at much more than two percent per year. If this bill becomes law, municipalities will have the option to support an ambulance service with an increase of more than two percent, without negatively impacting other areas of the local budget. Given the essential nature of EMS, as you have acknowledged in your Executive Budgets, we believe it is appropriate to allow municipalities the opportunity to give their community's ambulance service special financial consideration.

NYSVARA member EMS responders report to shifts around the clock and are always ready to assist the ill and injured. We would appreciate your signature enacting this legislation that will assist many municipalities in supporting the sustainability of their local EMS systems. We thank you for your consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact Legislative Chairperson Steven Kroll at steven.kroll@delmarems.org.

Sincerely,

Henry Erhardt

Henry Ehrhardt, President
NYS Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association